

Interview with Carmelo Brutto by Bruce M. Stave and Sondra Astor Stave for the G. Fox Oral History Project, Connecticut Historical Society, January 19, 2007 at his home in Enfield, Connecticut.

BSTAVE: What I'd like to do is begin talking to you a little bit about where and when you were born and your early life.

BRUTTO: Well, I was born in Sicily – a little town of Naro. I came here with my mother. My father had come here before, when I was only about eighteen months old. And after he got his citizenship papers, he called for us and naturally we had to wait for a [unclear], and we got here in 1930, on June sixteenth.

BS: And how old were you?

CB: Eight years old.

BS: You were born in 1922?

CB: Yes. May 22, 1922.

BS: So, then, what did your family do? What did your father do?

CB: My father worked here in Enfield – Thompsonville – in the mill. My mother stayed home. I think she started a little job in tobacco, like all the women did, in 1939-1942 or 1943. I went to school here – graduated high school – and a year later, in 1942, I was inducted into the Army. I served for three years in the Infantry 88<sup>th</sup> Division, and we fought in Italy. And when it was over – well, I shouldn't say that - - when I graduated – within a month, I got a job at G. Fox & Company and I stayed there until I retired.

SAS: So, how many years was that?

CB: Forty-six. From 1941 – July 15, 1941 until June 1, 1987. They say forty-five, I say forty-six.

BS: [laughs]

CB: My certificate says I was there for forty-five years, but there were some months, also.

BS: How did you get your first job?

CB: That was my first job.

BS: How did you get it? I mean, what did you do?

CB: A gentleman – my cousin, Charlie Vella – was the first one. He got a job here, through the same gentleman, when he graduated in 1940. And I had a cousin, Charlie Brutto, who graduated in 1939. He had a job in a grocery store or something. But in 1941, he quit and he was looking for a job, and he came with that gentleman that we knew that worked at Fox's, got us the jobs over there.

BS: Who was the man?

CB: Oh, he's dead, but he used to work in Fox's as an electrician. Jimmy. I forgot his last name. It's been such a long time. And the three of us ended up working at G. Fox & Company. I was with the Maintenance group, my cousin Charlie Brutto, was with the Shoe Department – Women's Shoes – and my older cousin, Charlie Vella, ended up in Delivery.

BS: Your first job – was your first job in Maintenance?

CB: Yes.

BS: How did you get trained when you started?

CB: First of all, I started to change electric light bulbs. I did that for a year-and-a-half, and that's when they called me to go in the Army in 1942. When I came back, I went back to the same Department, and I stayed doing that for a few months. They had an opening with a gentleman that took care of cash registers, adding machines, time

clocks, and I did everything, and they put me under him and I did a job that way. It was first echelon maintenance. In other words, if we got stuck with a job – a cash register that we couldn't figure out – we would call National Cash Register. The same thing with IBM clocks. Very slow, but sometimes you got stuck, and you'd call somebody else to help you. And the same thing with typewriters. It was a first echelon maintenance. And there were three of us that used to do that. But I liked the boss. Our boss was a very, very nice gentleman. Of course, he died. He lived in Wethersfield, near where she lived.

BS: Do you know his name?

CB: Anderson – Carl 'Andy' Anderson. He was very, very good.

BS: Did he train you?

CB: No, the other one that trained me – well, it wasn't like training.

SAS: More like an apprenticeship?

CB: Apprenticeship. You follow him and he shows you this and that as to how to do it. Through that way I learned all these topics like the typewriters, the cash registers, and all that stuff. And I liked my job because there was only three of us. The boss – Anderson – Andy – he knew that we knew what to do, when to do it, and how to do it, so we were – to ourselves, mostly what I liked is I could go anywhere in Fox's. I could go to her office --

BS: Her being?

SAS: Mrs. Auerbach?

CB: Yes. She had a secretary that had typewriters, pencil sharpeners, and clocks on the wall that I had to change twice a year because of the time difference. I used to go anywhere in the store. The bosses wouldn't say "work" because I was working. And people knew me

and got to know me and I got to know them. Not in a sense that we became real – I had a lot of good friends, but my life was here, you know? But I made a lot of friends and got to know a lot of people. There was about four thousand people at the height, like Christmastime. They would hire maybe another thousand people to bring it up to thirty-three hundred people or thirty-five hundred.

BS: Would they hire anyone else in Maintenance in addition, or that would all be sales?

CB: No. The total was like that, but if somebody died or somebody transferred or something, they would get somebody. And every so often, they would get another electrician. I think we had about twelve or thirteen electricians. And we had three men working in escalator/elevator department, we had three men working as plumbers, and we had three of us working with business machines, that I was with. And we had a couple others for oiling and other stuff.

BS: What kind of clothing did you wear when you worked?

CB: They gave us khakis the first time. Then they went to a green pants and shirt. And they went to blue. And we got jackets to wear if we had to go outside. As I got better and better at it, they would even send me to Colorado – Denver – to go to National Cash Register School for a month.

SAS: Oh!

CB: Me and another person. Arthur Fox. He worked there for about twenty years. He used to work in Pratt & Whitney as a machinist, grinding. He used to grind all the time. He got sick and tired of it, so in 1950 he quit and came looking for a job. So, he came and worked

for us. I think he and I worked together for twenty-eight years.

That's it on that part. She was --

BS: 'She' being Mrs. Auerbach?

CB: Mrs. Auerbach was wonderful. She was a great, great lady. You got a job there for life. Unless you either fought with somebody or they got caught cheating, they'd get discharged. Otherwise, I spent my life

--

BS: Did you know her personally? Did she know you -- your name?

CB: In a sense -- yes. She came around. She knew a lot of people, personally. One gentleman that I got to know really good was -- he used to inscribe things on plates.

BS: Jay Lichtenbaum?

CB: Jay! You talked to him?

BS: Yes, we did.

SAS: Last week.

CB: Oh, yes!

SAS: What a nice couple they are.

CB: Yes. He and I had the same thoughts. He loved it, he wished he could go back and do the same thing over. And I tell everybody that honestly, the money wasn't that great. But the conditions were good. The job was excellent, and getting to see and meet all these other people was out-of-this-world. I liked my job very much. I looked forward to going to work.

BS: Well, what was the thing you liked best about it?

CB: Well, she used to have -- after twenty-five years, I belonged to the Moses Fox Club, and she had everything -- what a gathering. What a blow-out. It was unbelievable. It was unbelievable.

SAS: Tell us about it.

BS: Yes, please. Tell us.

CB: We had this gentleman – well, a couple gentlemen – that used to decorate the hall – Centinel Hill Hall. I still remember the hall. One time there was an event and it was out-of-this-world with the statutes and everything that he brought in. Of course, they weren't really statutes. Every year was different.

BS: You were initiated into it in 1966?

CB: Right.

BS: How did you dress? Did you have to dress formally for that?

CB: Oh, we had tuxes. Oh, yes. The girls had long dresses. It was very nice.

SAS: Did you own a tux or did you rent one for the day?

CB: I rented it. I was going to get one, like my cousin did, but people started coming dressed – they started getting to be formal.

SAS: I see. Now, did Fox's have a place to rent tuxes?

CB: No, no.

SAS: So, you'd have to rent it from outside?

CB: No, I didn't rent from outside.

BS: Was your wife able to join you?

CB: No. This was for employees only. But later on – much later on, in the 1970s – was it the 1970s or 1980s when we went, they had one where we could bring our wives. This was not formal. It was semi-formal. We used to go to a hotel and have the dancing and stuff.

BS: Now, could you describe Mrs. Auerbach? What did she look like? What was she like?

CB: She was short. Well, I shouldn't say short. She always looked very, very nice. Dignified. She would say 'hello' to everybody. She was quite something. She was very nice.

BS: Now, you said that the conditions were good, the money wasn't that good. What did you get paid when you first started?

CB: [laughs] I got paid – I started at eighteen dollars a week. It was twenty-four dollars when I went in the Army a year-and-a-half later. But then, when I think back, my cousin, Charlie Vella – he was in the Army, also, in part of Italy, and we used to correspond. But he got wounded and he came home early. And he met me when I got home, and the first thing he told me was, "Carm, you've got to join G. Fox & Company and go back to work." I said, "I just got home. I want to stay home until my other cousin comes." I knew he was coming within a month. I said, "I want to stay home at least a month." He said, "Well, they give you thirty-five dollars a week now," and thirty-five dollars for a Christmas bonus at that time. That was a lot of money. But I did stay until February. About six weeks I stayed home, until he came, and then I went back to work in February. As a matter of fact, when I went to work, it was the first time – the start of us not working on Monday. We had Monday off. Usually we worked Monday through Saturday. But this was the first Monday that I didn't have to go to work that Monday. I started out Tuesday instead. As a matter of fact, we didn't even work at nights until – oh, my, I forgot when – but then we started to work on Friday nights, no Thursday nights until nine. I remember from here, I used to go in sometimes at twelve o'clock. That was when I had to work. The three of us --

BS: Noontime?

CB: Noontime.

SAS: So, you'd overlap?

CB: Yes. From noontime until nine. And then the next week, somebody else would take it.

BS: Were you ever called in at times when the store was closed? Were there any emergencies or anything?

CB: I used to work – this gentleman that worked on escalators and elevators in the 1960s – they used to take all the escalators at a time, one at a time, and they quit work in the daytime, so they used to do it at nighttime, and they got me to help. There were two others, and three of us – we stopped an escalator, take all the steps out, and clean it and put back together. And the next night, we'd do the same thing, until Wednesday. Wednesday we'd do two or three, until they were done. I used to go there twice a year to re-set the clocks – all the clocks. The time clocks, the overhead clocks, and the ones that they had in their offices to standard time or whatever.

BS: You said your first salary was eighteen dollars a week. When you retired in 1987, what were you making?

CB: This is the truth. With my overtime – and I used to put in quite a few overtime – twenty-three thousand dollars was my total.

BS: In 1987?

CB: In 1987, when I retired.

BS: Okay. Let's go back for a minute. Or did you want to say something?

CB: No, no, no. I jumped from here to there.

BS: Going back to Hartford in 1941 and in the 1940s, what was Hartford like at the time?



CB: Hartford was out-of-this-world. It was beautiful. It was beautiful. Of course, at Christmastime, she had the marquee. I forget. I can't get the word out that I want to, or the phrase, or whatever. I used to even help there because they used to have a church with a steeple.

BS: Right.

CB: And the clock on the steeple, and I'd have to fix the clock. But Hartford was – I'd love to see it come back like that, but I doubt very much it will ever come back that way. Everything is gone from there – from Main Street. People walking there – you don't have to be afraid of anything, at that time. But times changed.

BS: If you worked there for forty-six years, what were some of the changes that you saw over the course of the years?

CB: I saw back to the building, going East. They added on to that and in 1965 or something, May Company took us over.

BS: Right.

CB: I think she died in 1969.

BS: 1968

CB: 1968 – I was close.

BS: Yes, right.

CB: Well, right after that, I think, May Company had it where you could put money away, like four percent or five percent of your salary into May Company stock. Everybody got raises.

BS: So, were the benefits better?

CB: The benefits were better – much better. And salaries were much better.

SAS: But what about the atmosphere? Did that change?

CB: The atmosphere was still the same. It stayed that way until we knew that eventually something had to happen. We could see them cutting. They cut my Department about seven years before.

BS: 1980?

CB: About 1980. And before that, we had an indication that everything was going down instead of up, and they took our Department away, in a sense. They had people from outside come in and do what we used to do. And they put me with elevators and escalators for those seven years. I worked there, fixing them. And actually, I retired in 1987, and I think within a few years, that was it.

BS: They closed in 1993. Do you remember in 1965, when she sold to May Company, what expectations did people have, or did you have, about that?

CB: We didn't want it. I didn't want it. I wanted it to stay that way. I mean, I was so used to it. And, in one way, we were hoping we would be better, which it was. And May Company wasn't bad. They were very good to us. They were very good. They kept things as they were and they had the twenty-five year club thing, but they didn't call it twenty-five year. They did away with that, also. But they still had a party and all that. I don't know. It wasn't homey, like it used to be, when she was there. Something was missing after that – that was it.

BS: When she died in 1968, what were the feelings at the time?

CB: We were all saddened by it. She was very good to us. I knew Mr. Koopman, her son-in-law, and Mr. Schiro, but Mr. Koopman more. And, as a matter of fact, he knew my two cousins very good because he knew where each one worked, and when we used to go to the

parties that they had, he saw us there. He was very, very – a gentleman.

BS: Why did you know him better? Was he in charge of your Department?

CB: Yes. At one time, he was in charge of our Department – all of Maintenance. And every Christmas he would come down to our Department and wish us a Merry Christmas and shake hands with everybody. And he overlooked a lot of things there, when one of the boys would have a little bit too much to drink or something.

SAS: Oh. [laughs]

BS: [laughs]

CB: He just laughed at it. That was it, you know?

SAS: Was this only at the holiday time, or would people sometimes drink a little too much --?

CB: No, no. Just the holiday time, to celebrate. That's it. The men that we worked with together – all the electricians – I used to help the electricians for over-time or whatever.

BS: Did you have anything to do with the customers at all? Did you ever deal with the customers at the store?

CB: No, I didn't. No, I didn't have contact with customers. I did go on to Westfarms. I used to come out here to fix their stuff. Like sometimes they told me, "You're going to go up there for a month." You stay at home, and just report from there to home, instead of coming in and going back there. I did that a few times – quite a few times. I used to take care of all the cash registers after they fixed them, for a month. And I used to go to Waterbury for the same thing. And even later on, for the elevators and escalators, also.

BS: How did you feel about the malls and such that were -- the stores there -- the branches?

CB: I thought they were wonderful. Now the first one was the one in Windsor, on Route 5?

BS: The warehouse?

CB: No, she had a store there for the farmers.

BS: Oh, okay.

CB: Yeah, that was the first one she ever did. Then she had --

BS: Waterbury was the first one.

CB: Waterbury was the first one. Then the one in West Hartford.

SAS: Westfarms.

CB: Yes. And then the one here.

BS: Now, in terms of -- is there anybody that stands out in your mind particularly that you worked with, that was very special, aside from your cousins and such?

CB: Well, Andy.

BS: Andy Anderson?

CB: Yes. Andy was a gentleman. He knew he'd be in there almost every day. He'd be plumber, electrician, whatever. Of course, he was the boss. I got to know -- like I said -- Mr. Koopman. But all the gentlemen there -- they were bosses of other departments -- and I got to know them and they got to know me because I used to go into departments and girls typing and the other department -- I'd have to go there to fix their typewriters and so forth, or adding machine, and I got to know whoever was in charge there, and they got to know me.

BS: Had computers come in yet, when you left?

CB: No. Computers came in in 1970.

BS: Right.

CB: And we hired somebody from National Cash Register – a young gentleman – very, very nice guy. He'd do his thing while these were the computers ones that we could take and put – how do you call it? – to get in there, and that was it. But it wasn't as computerized as the later ones were.

SAS: But more mechanized?

CB: Yes. More and more mechanized. They were literally where the register would come out. This was the same thing, but it had components to put in there. And he had to know all these things.

WIFE: How about Paul?

CB: That's Paul. He's the one.

BS: Paul who?

CB: I forgot his last name. He was a pencil boy. He really was a mechanic. When he came in there, he took over in a sense. Because our other gentleman – oh, gosh. What was his name? The one that died? Jack Egler.

WIFE: Paul Sandhal.

CB: He was the one that came in in 1971.

BS: Now, Jack Engler – who was he?

CB: He was around until 1961 or 1962 and then he retired?

BS: He was in Maintenance with you?

CB: Maintenance – yes. He was the only one at that time, in 1941 and 1942. But when I came back, I went to work with him. Yeah, we got to know each other very good, of course.

BS: Were there any attempts to unionize – any unions?

CB: Yes.

BS: Tell me.

CB: Many times Mr. Koopman would come down when the union came with the people and all that, and he would speak to us and he would speak to the truck drivers, especially, because they were the men they wanted. We weren't for it, in a sense. We liked what we had. We didn't know how it was going to be to be unionized, and you couldn't get a lot of people to form – and say, “Well, we want a union,” because a lot of the people worked part-time.

BS: Right.

CB: So, you had a lot of part-time people. But the ones that worked there stayed, I think, were skeptical about it. They weren't for it. A few not many.

BS: Do you remember when they would have tried to unionize -- approximately when they tried to do this?

CB: About two or three times they tried it.

BS: Do you remember which unions?

CB: Offhand, no.

BS: Were there any or many minorities who worked there?

CB: Oh, yes. I became very, very good friends with a colored gentleman. We had a couple of electricians later on. I got to know a few of them, and elevator operators, and when we had lunchtime, we used to go down and have lunch and then go to our little room that they had for us, so we could play cards until our time was up, and we used to play Setback and Pinnochle. I used to play Pinnochle. I'd be there with a couple of them that were colored, and we played. We mingled. And sometimes I'd say to them if they weren't good, I was going to report them to the NAACP. [laughs] And then, that was it.

SAS: But everybody got along?

CB: Oh, yes. That's the main thing. We did get along. Jay was – we had our shop here, and where the garage is would be the stairwell – staircase – and he would be there. In other words, he was running them all, working sixty feet away. We'd see each other so often and talk and all that, and that's how we got to know each other very good. He's very good.

WIFE: He's nice.

CB: I like he and his wife very much.

BS: Yes.

SAS: Very nice couple.

CB: They are.

BS: Did he ever engrave anything for you?

CB: Oh, yes. He engraved all the stuff that Mrs. Auerbach gave us our twenty-fifth reunion – she would give us something and he would have to engrave it – the name, year, and so forth. He did all that stuff. And for her, he did a lot of things. He knew her very good. He knew her very good.

BS: Were there any women in your unit – in the department?

CB: No. All men. All men.

BS: Were there many women working in the store?

CB: Oh, yes. Quite a few. Quite a few women.

BS: What kinds of jobs would they have?

CB: Sales. A lot of women were at the warehouse, where they ticketed – they had ticket machines that they'd ticket the clothing and all that. There were quite a few. Then we had sewing – oh, my God! They

had quite a few – twenty-odd girls. We used to have our own newspaper. That gentleman – I forgot his name --

BS: Fox Tales I see you're pulling out.

CB: He used to put out this, and sometimes I would help him because something would break or something wasn't working right, and I'd go up there.

BS: It's a picture we're looking at of G. Fox on Main Street and it's dated in the 1950s.

SAS: There's other stuff.

CB: Yes, get it all out. Maybe you can use it. This is what they gave us one time.

BS: Let's see. What is that?

CB: This is a twenty-five year member.

BS: Oh, let me see. That's your pin? Oh, Moses Fox Club. I see. What we're looking at is a small jewelry box that says 'G. Fox & Company, Hartford, Connecticut,' and in it is the G. Fox Twenty-Five Year Pin, Moses Fox Club, which I'm going to try to take a picture of here.

CB: This is good.

BS: Here is a newspaper of June 11, 1987, and it's The Hartford Courant, and they have here a listing, and what it says is 'A living tradition of satisfaction at G. Fox, where honoring employees for their contributions to excellence,' and right at the top, forty-five years, is Carmelo Brutto. So, there you are as the longest employee – that was the longest employee here.

WIFE: June 11. That's when we got married.

BS: Oh!

CB: This is the book we used to get when we worked at Fox's.



BS: Now, is there anyone else you know that might be good to speak to?

WIFE: How about Shirley Koplowitz.

CB: Shirley Koplowitz.

BS: The secretary?

CB: She was her secretary.

WIFE: Pauline just died.

CB: Pauline died.

BS: Pauline? Who was that?

WIFE: What was her last name?

CB: I used to have her name with Margaret. I used to have her name. She died recently. (Hallock)

WIFE: Yes. A couple of months ago.

BS: Is there anything that we haven't talked about that you would like to talk about?

CB: No. Just about everything.

BS: What was your feeling when the store closed in 1993, when it finally shut its doors? You were retired, but –

[end of side one]

CB: She was a secretary to one of the Vice Presidents. They had a lot of Vice Presidents at the May Company that came in, and when Mrs. Auerbach was there, it was her and – oh, I forgot his name.

WIFE: Katzen?

CB: No, no. He was second-in-charge there.

SAS: At the beginning, Mr. Einstein, right?

CB: Einstein was one – yes. And then there was another one.

BS: Well, I started to ask, when they closed the store in 1993, what was your feeling? Between the time you retired and when they closed, did you have much contact with G. Fox?

CB: Oh, yes. We'd go there – yes. As a matter of fact, we got a little group together here, in Enfield, like Jay probably told you, I hope.

BS: No, he didn't.

CB: And from Wethersfield – we'd get maybe twenty or twenty-nine sometimes, and we'd meet once every month and have breakfast at Friendly's.

BS: I see. And these were people from all different departments?

CB: Yes, yes.

BS: How long did that go on?

CB: Oh, that went on for a few years.

WIFE: Last year was the end of it.

CB: Yes.

BS: So, it went on, then, for a long time?

WIFE: Yes. Because it was just Jay and Sylvia and he and I.

CB: It was just Jay and us. That's why we became such good friends.

SAS: Was this because people were dying?

WIFE: They were moving or –

CB: Either dying or couldn't make it for one reason or another. It's just like other organizations that I belonged to. We had about a hundred sixty-five at one time. It began in 1946. Now they have very few.

BS: That's the Veteran's group?

CB: Yes. And out of the forty-eight, maybe four of us are holding the place together.

BS: But with the G. Fox group – when did it start? When did you first start meeting? Was it immediately after retirement?

CB: Yeah, not too long after. Not too long after. We lived close to them.

SAS: And that included spouses?

CB: Yes.

WIFE: We had grab bags. Remember, we had gifts? We used to buy gifts – Christmas gifts.

CB: At one time – yeah.

WIFE: It was nice.

BS: So, you've kept your contacts then, over time?

CB: Oh, yes. We had contact.

BS: What would you say was the greatest effect of G. Fox on your life?

CB: I don't know. Being there. Meeting the people. Working with them. I looked forward to going to work and seeing everybody. For Christmas, we had big chandeliers we used to put up – the Maintenance Department would put them all up. I used to look forward to it. I used to look forward to Christmas, and all those people coming into the store. They would get dressed up. We'd have to – escalators going down or coming up – we'd have two men there, coming down. There would be two men to assist if anything ever happened. One man – he would get there for an hour, and somebody else would take over. But we did that for our busy times, and I'd have to do that at nighttime. I used to look forward to everything.

WIFE: It was a top-of-the-line store. It really was.

CB: She used to take us out for outings.

WIFE: Haddam.

CB: And we'd have a ball there! And this was all free!

SAS: Did you ever go to her farm?

CB: Once – twice, I should say. Once I had to go to her house when she wasn't there. I waited for someone. But whoever it was never came. And then we went to the farm one time because our boys played the farm boys there, baseball or softball. They gave us watermelons and everything. It was great! Our Maintenance Department used to have two outings. We used to pay twenty-five cents a week, and at the end – we'd have one in May and one in late September. We'd gather all the Maintenance workers, and we'd go out to Manchester, where they had-- we'd have eating and we'd have baseball games. Someone would bring the guns, and we'd shoot the guns – target practice and all that. It was a get-together – all the men.

BS: So, the group got together?

CB: We did that twice a year. Mr. Koopman would be there, and Mr. – I can't think of his name. As a matter of fact, he had five percent of the store. She had to be incorporated. There couldn't be only one person. There had to be two persons. So, I think the way I understood it, she made him a five percent owner.

BS: Do you remember who that is?

CB: No. All I know is he used to come to our – we used to invite him to our games there.

WIFE: Camilari?

CB: No, no, no. He would umpire.

BS: [laughs]

CB: We'd go out there with beer and give it to him, and he'd be calling it wrong, and he would get holy – the devil from us!

BS: [laughs]

CB: And he would laugh! He was – oh, my God! He was so nice. But Mr. Koopman would be there, and we'd have a big dinner, and then they would play cards. Mr. Koopman would be there, and Mr. --

BS: Luetggens?

CB: No. He was the second-in-charge. After her. That's it.

WIFE: Maybe Jay would know.

BS: Okay. We'll find out. Okay. Is there anything else you'd like to add? Anything further?

CB: No. I wish things were back like that -- Hartford was back to what it was!

BS: [laughs]

WIFE: Yes. It was busy.

CB: I doubt it.

SAS: Did you do most of your shopping at Fox's?

CB: Oh, yes. Most of it? All of it.

SAS: At the downtown store, or in Enfield, once that opened?

WIFE: I used to go to Hartford.

BS: Did you have a discount or anything, as an employee?

WIFE: Yes. Twenty percent.

CB: I still get it.

BS: You still get it?

CB: Yes, because I'm still alive.

BS: [laughs]

CB: As long as I'm alive, I get it.

SAS: Have you been to Macy's since it's changed?

CB: Oh, yes.

SAS: What do you think of Macy's?

CB: My wife and I don't think well of it. They do away with this, they do away with that. All of the good stuff that they used to have –

WIFE: I went yesterday and I was looking for something. They've done away with Bill Blass jeans, which I have on. I love the Bill Blass jeans. And the Dockers – they're going to away with the Dockers.

SAS: So, the clothing is going down?

WIFE: And the price is higher.

BS: Higher?

SAS: So, the price is higher, but the quality is lower?

WIFE: Yes.

SAS: Great combination.

WIFE: Yeah, it is.

BS: Well, I think on that note, we're going to stop. Thank you very, very much.

End of Interview