**Janet:** Today's November 1st, 1995. I'm here in Concord New Hampshire with Mr. and Mrs. Boulgouras. Both of them came through Ellis Island but we're beginning now interviewing Socrates Boulgouras who came to the United States around 1930 when he was about 18 years of age and he was born in the United States.

**Socrates:** In Manchester.

**Janet:** In Manchester New Hampshire, left for Greece when he was six years of age, stayed in Greece up until he finished high school at about 18 years of age and then came back here to Concord?

**Socrates:** Came here because my father was here, established and I stayed. He was alone there, my mother was in Greece, I was with her and a little sister.

**Janet:** Okay, let’s just start and I'll ask some specific information and we will get back to that.

**Socrates:** Right, go ahead, yes mom.

**Janet:** So if you would say for the tape, where in Greece you were born or where in Greece you went after you went back to Greece and your birthdate for the tape.

**Socrates:** September 28th, 1915.

**Janet:** So that’s your birthdate and will you say now where in Greece you went back to? Where you went when you lived in Greece?

**Socrates:** To [unclear 00:01:53], state of Greece called Trikala Kardista. Kardista and Trikala, they were two different capitals or two states there.

**Janet:** Now how do you spell- I know Trikala, how do you spell the other one?

**Socrates:** Kardista, K-A-R-D-I-T-S-A, that is the capital city of the state, smaller state and not too big.

**Janet:** Do you remember anything of your life in United States up until you were six years old, when you went to Greece?

**Socrates:** I didn't remember anything, I remember right in Manchester they used to have a big park there and my mother used to take me by the hand and hold me and watch me and they had few statues there, bronze statue by the park there and she used to take me there every day of the week and I was admiring those statues that they had there, bronze statues. The water was coming out of the mouth [chuckle]. I remember that just like I see you.

**Janet:** Now what was your mother's name?

**Socrates:** Evangelia.

**Janet:** How about her maiden name, do you remember that?

**Socrates:** Yeah, K-O-U-T-R-A-S, Koutras.

**Janet:** Okay, so your mother used to take you to the park and do you remember anything else that you did as a little boy when you were in Manchester before you went back to Greece?

**Socrates:** Whatever they told me, they had [unclear 00:04:11] was with the--

**Janet:** Circus.

**Socrates:** With the circus, I remember that [laughter].

**Janet:** Really.

**Socrates:** Oh yeah, I remember that.

**Janet:** Was your father here in Manchester at that time?

**Socrates:** Yeah.

**Janet:** What was his name?

**Socrates:** Costan, C-O-N-S-T-A-N. Constatino is the full name but it was abbreviated.

**Janet:** Did you have brothers and sisters here before you went?

**Socrates:** I had a little brother, he died. He was probably four- five months and after that my mother had a little girl who is residing in Trikala now, in Athens and she majored in French in Paris.

**Janet:** Wow, your sister, was she born here or--?

**Socrates:** Yes, definitely. She's a real native from here.

**Janet:** I see, is she older or younger than you?

**Socrates:** No, she's younger.

**Janet:** And her name?

**Socrates:** Effiginia, Effie.

**Janet:** Why was it that you went to Greece when you were six years old?

**Socrates:** Why because my father insisted. My mother says, "You are going to go to Greece and anything you want to buy to have it over there in the house in Manchester you buy it and we're going to ship it to Greece."

**Janet:** Why did he want your mother to go to Greece?

**Socrates:** So we won’t be like here, [unclear 00:06:07] without no language and who talked to natives from Manchester, no there were natives from Manchester [laughter], they had little talk in English.

**Janet:** So he wanted you to learn Greek?

**Socrates:** Definitely and that’s why he send me to go to Finnish high school over there.

**Janet:** I see, and did he go over there with you or you just went with your mother?

**Socrates:** It took him about four five years in between intervals to come for me and my mother and my sister and the brother that died as a kid. We were with our mother and 1923, he decided to call his wife over, three kids and that’s it and I couldn't yes if no but I had to learn.

**Janet:** What was school like in Greece?

**Socrates:** Tough, tougher than here. It was very little Greek but the other was English.

**Janet:** So you had to learn Greek in the school there?

**Socrates:** Yeah you could and if you advanced, second year, third to fourth year over there you learned more English in school because we were not the only ones. They had a lot of people migrating back here. They couldn't talk to their kids, the old folks, their parents so that’s it.

**Janet:** So there were other children in your school who had also been born in this country and gone back to Greece?

**Socrates:** Yeah.

**Janet:** I see, the town of Trikala, was it a big city?

**Socrates:** Right now it’s about 85,000 but the time I was going to high school over there it was about 28-30,000.

**Janet:** What do you remember about the town? What it was like when you were there?

**Socrates:** I remember the town just like I see you now.

**Janet:** Well, for you to describe it, what it looked like? What the main street looked like?

**Socrates:** Beautiful, very beautiful. I'll never forget it and I'll never forget it now.

**Janet:** What did you like so much about it? What was it that made you--?

**Socrates:** Well, they had different types of games, skating, ice skating, roller skating because it was extinct because we didn't know how to cope with it anyway. After a while I got trained and we joined them.

**Janet:** That’s what you did for fun?

**Socrates:** Yeah, sure.

**Janet:** So you were living with your mother, did you have grandparents over there?

**Socrates:** No, they were dead.

**Janet:** How about aunts and uncles, did you have any other family over there?

**Socrates:** Yeah, my father had a brother here and he went back after years and my mother was supposed to have helped come back here, his company. Two sisters, they both died and that’s all she had here.

**Janet:** After you finished high school, did your father think then you should come back?

**Socrates:** Ooh definitely, he says, "If you find it too hard to finish high school over there," He says, "Forget it, you don't have to finish, come over here I'll send you the ticket and you stay right there and finish high school over there."

**Janet:** What was your father doing for work?

**Socrates:** He had a small grocery store, only Cavignon.

**Janet:** And so he would send money over for your mother and your sister and you, when you were there?

**Socrates:** Of course, my mother couldn't talk in English. My father was even worse [laughter].

**Janet:** Well, you must have known English when you first went over.

**Socrates:** Very little, very little.

**Janet:** I see, they weren't speaking it at home. Had you gone to school at all in this country before you went to Greece?

**Socrates:** As a listener, I couldn't understand I couldn't make any conversations or anything, any verbs and stuff like that, no. Unless it was somebody that was much much longer here than me maybe I would get the basics.

**Janet:** Did you learn enough English in school when you were in Greece so that when you came back [crosstalk 00:11:38]?

**Socrates:** Very little but after I returned here I was determined to learn English, do or die period. I was determined, I mean determined.

**Janet:** Did your father go back to Greece and come back to the United States with you and your mother?

**Socrates:** No.

**Janet:** You came [crosstalk 00:12:03].

**Socrates:** My mother she came with me and my sister, two kids.

**Janet:** Do you remember leaving Trikala and going to the port to take the [crosstalk 00:12:14]?

**Socrates:** Pieria.

**Janet:** That’s where you left from?

**Socrates:** Yeah, sure.

**Janet:** What was that like leaving and saying goodbye to everyone?

**Socrates:** It was beautiful [chuckle], for me it was like a brand new toy, like you gave me a car and not a ford car. A small, he gave me a heavy car, big car even though I didn't know how to drive or anything.

**Janet:** Who gave it to you?

**Socrates:** My father.

**Janet:** Once you got here.

**Socrates:** Yeah.

**Janet:** Oh, but when you were leaving- when you were leaving from Pieria, do you remember getting on the ship?

**Socrates:** We came with the ship and we disembarked in New York.

**Janet:** Do you remember when the ship came into the New York harbor?

**Socrates:** Oh yes, I remember that.

**Janet:** Did you see the statue of liberty?

**Socrates:** Positively, three- four times [laughter] with my wife and then my daughter and the kids and the youngest son.

**Janet:** Do you remember seeing it that first time when you were coming?

**Socrates:** Absolutely.

**Janet:** Did you know what it was?

**Socrates:** Oh yeah from Geography. We had a course of geography or history, that’s how you pick it up.

**Janet:** Do you remember Ellis Island?

**Socrates:** Yes, I do. Even my wife remembers it.

**Janet:** What do you remember about it?

**Socrates:** Well they have the big posters they have of the timers of how people how they used to disembark there.

**Janet:** But I don't mean now, now it’s a museum but I mean when you first came in about 1930, do you remember when you got off the boat going to Ellis island?

**Socrates:** Yes, I remember.

**Janet:** What do you remember about that time? What it looked like and how you were treated?

**Socrates:** They told us from a distance, they told us, "That is the Statue of Liberty," and we knew about history that statue- Statue of Liberty it was donated at the expense of government friends.

**Janet:** And how were you treated? Were you examined at Ellis Island?

**Socrates:** Oh yes, we had doctors there, sure.

**Janet:** What was the examination like for you?

**Socrates:** Anything that might be- if you had whooping cough or [unclear 00:14:43] or those kids diseases you know small.

**Janet:** Were you healthy?

**Socrates:** Yeah, I was healthy.

**Janet:** And your mother and your sister?

**Socrates:** Yeah.

**Janet:** So were detained? Did you stay overnight at Ellis Island?

**Socrates:** No, we stayed at the hotel there. We had some people from the same village and they knew each other from the old village, so that’s it and as the time was going by and I started picking up learning English and little of the language here- English then I started to get around and around and I was determined to learn, do or die.

**Janet:** Well now did your father pick you up at Ellis Island? He met you?

**Socrates:** He came right at the ship port yeah.

**Janet:** And you remember that, seeing him for the first time when you first came?

**Socrates:** It was unfortunate thing that he had the same suit and he had a Borsalino hat and a neck tie and a hat was---

**Janet:** Like a riding cap?

**Socrates:** No, no like a dress hat.

**Janet:** Dressy hat.

**Socrates:** Yeah, we brought it in Naples Italy. We stop there and my father says, "Come over here, pick up what you want you want for color and the size." It was an Italian guy so my father says to him- he knew little Italy, in Italian says, "What do you want?" He says, "I want four Borsalino hats," and they were expensive. Then 400 drachmas those days which I still have in our closest here now.

**Janet:** You still have a hat.

**Socrates:** Sure.

**Janet:** Maybe when I take your picture later, I can take you wearing the hat.

**Socrates:** Sure.

**Janet:** That would be nice. Okay, we'll do it after then.

**Socrates:** Absolutely.

**Janet:** Okay, so your father met you and he took you to a hotel?

**Socrates:** My father he send me a telegram that I'm going to arrive such a time in New York. There was another guy from the same village and my father knew him but I couldn't remember him anyway because I was too small and [laughter]--

**Janet:** That’s a beauty. We’ll take the picture of that.

**Socrates:** That hat- that is an antique.

**Janet:** That’s a beautiful hat.

**Socrates:** This hat here, when do you think I bought it? When I was in high school over there and I paid only 50 cents.

**Janet:** Really?

**Socrates:** Yeah.

**Janet:** It’s lovely.

**Socrates:** More strips touched to that and this has a --

**Janet:** A snap? Oh band.

**Socrates:** Yes, that’s right and here is the name of the guy that was selling them. He's still in business.

**Janet:** Really?

**Socrates:** Honest to God. Yeah there it says, "Tommy Chrome is the name of the little store where we were made and where I bought it." Tommy Chrome means the small- that was the name of the [unclear 00:18:32]. The guy that hat, the creator, the owner of this little store was Aristides Kurkunis.

**Janet:** Oh that’s wonderful.

**Socrates:** Trikala.

**Janet:** Oh there it is, yeah. Okay, so when your father met you and your mother and your sister--

**Socrates:** My father he didn't know me from [unclear 00:18:57].

**Janet:** When you came to Ellis Island?

**Socrates:** That’s right.

**Janet:** Really?

**Socrates:** Yeah.

**Janet:** Because you hadn't seen him for how many years?

**Socrates:** From 1922.

**Janet:** So he didn’t know you from [crosstalk 00:19:09]?

**Socrates:** Here he was right here, that’s me.

**Janet:** Those are beautiful pictures.

**Socrates:** That was my father's brother, the oldest brother. That was my mother and there is my father.

**Janet:** Wow, beautiful. So he didn't know you, what was it like when you saw him then? When he didn't know you and you were at Ellis Island?

**Socrates:** There was a group there of young boys, young girls and whatever and somebody said to me that they were checking in and out and they say, "Do you speak any English?" No, no American. So I met one of the girls that was checking people who were coming and disembarked or embarking to go out or coming in and sister [unclear 00:20:03], I'll never forget her, her name was Louis, says Louis, "Call for my father’s name, will you?" “What’s his name? Charles or Constantine Boulgouras? See if he is there and notify him through the interpreter or whatever his son is arrived here right on my right then I'm going to escort him till I'll give his son to him safely” and right after that I went out, they said it was [unclear 00:20:41], said, "Let’s go and have something for their supper." We went some Italian restaurant and we ate there, it was about eight or ten people in there.

**Janet:** And this is in New York City?

**Socrates:** New York city, right by the harbor.

**Janet:** So a bunch of people from your town came in that and you [crosstalk 00:21:07]?

**Socrates:** Oh yeah, they knew that my father was arriving that day or evening or whatever.

**Janet:** And then what did you do that evening after you had the dinner?

**Socrates:** Nothing, we went the Cavignon was there- where the empire state building is and the big theater there, what the heck was it?

**Female:** Radio city.

**Socrates:** Radio city.

**Janet:** You went there?

**Socrates:** Oh yeah [laughter].

**Janet:** And so you stayed in New York for a few days or--?

**Socrates:** A few days and after three- four- five days, we came to, my father says, "Let’s go, you want to see a big theatre?" I say, "Yeah." We don't have any big theaters in Trikala in Karditsa. He says, "Okay, we'll go." So he gave somebody a tip there, 50 cents whatever and let us through instead of paying a full ticket. 50 cents paid 35 [chuckle], Greek style.

**Janet:** Was this radio city?

**Socrates:** Absolutely, radio city.

**Janet:** So then when did you come to New Hampshire?

**Socrates:** It was less than two days.

**Janet:** I see and you came by train?

**Socrates:** Came by train. My father and the conductor came and he was picking up the tickets from me, his customer and my father stuck his by the row seat and a guy who started to, "Hi, ticket, ticket." He says, "Boy, you're headed here is the ticket?" He says, “He don't talk in English, so give me those tickets." They used to pick them up but they were not a dollar or two dollars, they were 40 cents, 50cents.

**Janet:** Do you remember arriving here in New Hampshire?

**Socrates:** Definitely, my father and my mother and I. We landed right down here, they had the biggest rail road’s station right here in this city and it was a bigger station after you leave Boston, the next one big one used to be in White Rivers in Junction Vermont, another big one, that’s it.

**Janet:** Yeah, you remember that station?

**Socrates:** I remember just like I see you there now.

**Janet:** What did it look like to you when you came in having come from Greece?

**Socrates:** Like a little hole in the ground [laughter].

**Janet:** A hole in the ground?

**Socrates:** Yeah, my wife she knows it too.

**Janet:** So you got here to Concord and then what did you do once you got here or go to work?

**Socrates:** What I did?

**Janet:** Yeah, did you go to work or?

**Socrates:** No, my father he told me to come in the store, he had the store right there next door and he says, "In the morning come in here and give me a little hand here." I say, "What I don't know anything, how to weigh this stuff and blah blah." He says, "Don’t worry. You’ll just do what I tell you." "Okay, fine." So I started to put in a little bag- 5 pound little bag- paper bag, 10 pounds, 12 pounds.

**Janet:** What were you putting in the bags?

**Socrates:** Potatoes, onions [laughter].

**Janet:** Now did your family live in this house when the store was over there?

**Socrates:** No, my father was the first one that moved here to this house here 1937. At least he had the intuition that, “Where I'm going to live if I don't have a house?” So he borrowed from some other big wholesaler, "How much money you need Charlie?" "I need $1000 because my family is just coming back and we got to have a place to sleep." "Okay, how much you want?" He says, "Give me $1000."

**Janet:** So he was in the wholesale business? Is that what it was?

**Socrates:** No, no he had a small grocery store. It was like a self-service. It wasn't a big big [unclear 00:26:05].

**Janet:** Now was there a big Greek community?

**Socrates:** Over here?

**Janet:** In Concord?

**Socrates:** The biggest was in Manchester.

**Janet:** So would you get together with other people who had come from Greece?

**Socrates:** Oh yes, especially Williams.

**Janet:** What would you do?

**Socrates:** They had picnics, you remember? She remembers too. She came from a small town too. Her town you know where it is from? From West Virginia.

**Janet:** Ooh okay, well I’m going to talk to her after we finish with you.

**Socrates:** Absolutely, refreshing memory [laughter].

**Janet:** What did you do like you’d have picnics? Would you have dancing, singing?

**Socrates:** Definitely, every week they have something whether it was a community dance, big size or mediocre or especially if it was summer, spring they have a band- a big one was consisting of eight- ten people different instruments and dance there till midnight.

**Janet:** So how were you treated when you first came over here and you were really coming from Greece? Did people treat you well?

**Socrates:** Very good, everybody was telling me, "Welcome, how do you like it here?" And this and that, you use your Charlie's name? Yeah. While he says, "We know your father longer than he knows you [laughter]."

**Janet:** How did your mother adjust, did she like it here? She stayed but she --it was a lot colder here, wasn't it than where she was from?

**Socrates:** Of course, like it is now. Yesterday my wife was going [unclear 00:28:11], freezing.

**Janet:** So you were here in Concord and then you helped your father in the store and did you stay? Is that what you kept doing for work?

**Socrates:** No.

**Janet:** Then what did you with that?

**Socrates:** After I was registered to be drafted in the army, not only I many others. I was drafted, registered to be in the service. I was sent to Manchester, I stayed there about five- six months and from there they took a group of us and they send us to Fort Devens Massachusetts, outside of Lole.

**Janet:** And then what?

**Socrates:** And then they took us away after the basic training, they sent us to a bigger camp like I served my out ship was sent to Fort Deven Massachusetts which was one of the biggest camps for placing newly drafted boys for the service.

**Janet:** Did you go overseas?

**Socrates:** Five years, all over Europe.

**Janet:** So you saw action? You saw fighting?

**Socrates:** Yeah, in health. I was with a medic.

**Janet:** A medic?

**Socrates:** Yeah, there's a [unclear 00:29:55] school.

**Janet:** Can you say what your outfit was? Were you in a particular--?

**Socrates:** I was within the infantry division, the name of it- the division was under the command of General George Patton. He was the guy, he didn't care whose son you were, President's Roosevelt or what. He see you on the streets, he salute you and then he would reach for his gun, he had two barrel handled guns, two he had one here one there.

**Janet:** So after he'd salute you, he'd reach for his guns?

**Socrates:** No, if he notes you, he noticed that you were not from the same company from a distance, from across the street. Salute him, he says, "What the hell is your name?" "My name is Joe Bagalow." "Where are you stationed?" He says, "I'm with the 50th Infantry division." "Oh you are, good. Okay, in other words you are a new inductee here?" I said, "Yeah," everyone that was new [laughter].

**Janet:** So what kind of a man was he?

**Socrates:** George Patton?

**Janet:** Yes.

**Socrates:** Even my wife has the pleasure of meeting him, big from here to the floor. Big man and he was rough, I mean not to curse you but he would be rough and he'll say, "Hi, come over here," like this "What the hell is your name?" [Unclear 00:31:56] "How long have you been here?" "Two- three weeks," and then he says, "I'll fix you so you'll do just as you are told, not the way you want [laughter]." The day that we disembark, any out ship from the American forces, we landed at Normandie, the day, not the one not two, the day right there.

**Janet:** Do you think it affected you being in the Second World War?

**Socrates:** In more ways than one.

**Janet:** How?

**Socrates:** Helped me pick up English, whether I wanted to or not.

**Janet:** How did you feel about serving in the army for this country at that time?

**Socrates:** I never served under the Greek army, so I was like a prince here. It was good, I liked it. The only thing that was impeding me was the English language.

**Janet:** You said you were determined to learn it.

**Socrates:** Oh definitely and I was asked of my sergeant, especially the first week that we were inducted. I'll never forget him, I remember him just like I see you, Chester Baron, he was from Chicago. "Hi Sergeant," "Hi." I say, "May I ask you something? You say it every morning and I still don't know it." He says, "Why, what’s your problem?"

I said, "What you were saying in the morning when you report, you are a sergeant and you report to the first sergeant, who is present who is not present, so get under his wing there." Say, "Have somebody the first sergeant recite the names, what’s your name?" So even the captain was saying, he says, "As I call your name, I don't want any fancy names and blah, blah, I want your real name so we're going to get acquainted here. You don't know me I don't know you [laughter].”

So he said, "As I call your name, I want you to stand up right by your desk and the minute you hear your name called, stand up and report to me at once, right on." So this guy my pleasure is to report, he says, "My name is captain such and such, I'm from west Virginia" he says and this and then that but he says, "Pay attention so you won't forget my name because it’s not going to be playing checkers here or [unclear 00:35:21] oh no, we have a work to do here."

**Janet:** So did you find out what he said in the morning?

**Socrates:** Yeah, in the morning, I'd asked the first sergeant Chester Baron, "Sergeant, what do you say in the morning? You were reporting to the first sergeant, not the one with one sardine here, the guy had four five sardines here." He says, "What do you say?" He says, "You don't know?" "No." "You don't know any English?" I say, "No, where in the hell am I going to learn? Up in the village in Greece, what do you speak, your mother?" "Polish," He says. "You know Polish?" "Very little." "What the hell you're blaming me, we're going to train the other."

**Janet:** So how did you get to learn English in the service then?

**Socrates:** Curiosity.

**Janet:** You asked people what they were saying and repeated and--?

**Socrates:** Any soldier, any corporal, sergeant, officer I would ask them, there’s nothing to be embarrassed. Say, "Excuse me, my name is such, I'm with such out ship will you be kind enough and tell me how would I land where part of my division is established by [unclear 00:36:47]?" "You know that?" I said, "Yeah, you want to teach me some more too?" And we had a good time [laughter].

**Janet:** Okay, when you got out of the service, what did you do then?

**Socrates:** Nothing.

**Janet:** You met your wife?

**Socrates:** Yeah, that’s it [laughter].

**Janet:** How did you meet?

**Socrates:** How? Acquaintance.

**Janet:** A mutual friend?

**Socrates:** I didn't know her and she didn't know me but some of her people, I mean her father, mother, uncles, whatever and from the same home town in Greece they were acquaintance of mine themselves, so they would know you, they would meet you that way and they say, "How long have you been here?" "Two three years?" "Oh, you're new." "New without English what do you want?" That’s it.

**Janet:** So did the families arrange like a marriage here?

**Female:** No.

**Janet:** Oh they didn't do that with you.

**Socrates:** The girls were making arrangements then. Not you of course not. She was the queen Elizabeth.

**Janet:** What did you like about your wife? Why did you---- Your wife was 16

**Socrates:** Yes, she was very tender.

**Janet:** Tender [laughter].

**Socrates:** Yeah, she was very young.

**Janet:** So did you see each other for quite a while or you got married soon after you met?

**Socrates:** No, I get married not right out of the bed because first I was drafted in the army.

**Janet:** Oh you met her right before you were drafted?

**Socrates:** Yeah, so that’s it.

**Janet:** Five years you were away then?

**Socrates:** Well, I was in and out and not only her own home town, adjacent town, like, "Are you from Manchester?" "No, you're from Nashville." Okay so you meet like that, that’s it.

**Janet:** Okay, so then what did you do for work after you came out of the service?

**Socrates:** After I came out of the service, I got married. Maguano is a Greek word it says maguano says that I nailed her through the hook over like catching a fish [laughter], that’s it. She remembers that and she's laughing, she thinks it’s a joke but if she was in my place I don't know what the hell she would have done [laughter].

Not that she would have been snorted but somebody else would say, "Hi, where are you?" [inaudible 00:40:07], let’s go to the movies or let’s go to a dance." So she got acquainted like yes, bam bam before you knew she knew all the people in town, got acquainted.

**Janet:** So then what did you do? Did you go back into your father's store?

**Socrates:** No, after I got married, no. Not right off. I did? I got the direct order from the high command [laughter], you know what I mean?

**Janet:** So you see, was it your wife says that you did go back and work with your father in the store.

**Socrates:** Of course, sure.

**Janet:** And then did you stay doing that or did you do something else?

**Socrates:** No.

**Janet:** You stayed there.

**Socrates:** Yeah.

**Janet:** I see, now did you have children?

**Socrates:** Yeah.

**Janet:** Three children and their names?

**Socrates:** Constantinos was the first one, the second one was Federico and the third one was Alcibiades, that’s another good one.

**Janet:** What do you feel very proud of that you have done in your life? What makes you satisfied that you were able to do in your life?

**Socrates:** Well, I was not in a position to do what I really wanted, I wanted to go to university to study something but my father says, "I have a small insurance $200," he says, "I'll cash it and with the $200 which would amount of $400, I will give $200 part of the first semester and the second semester I'll give you the balance. In the meantime," he says, "You're going to work in the kitchen with the boys helping, cooking there, washing dishes, big big pots to wash and whatever."

**Janet:** What kitchen? Where was the kitchen?

**Socrates:** Well, somewhat--

**Janet:** Fort Deven?

**Socrates:** Not Fort Deven, this way smaller.

**Janet:** [unclear 00:42:57]?

**Socrates:** [unclear 00:42:58] New Jersey no.

**Janet:** But wait a minute, when you got out of the service then were you still thinking about going to college?

**Socrates:** I was still but after my father told me, he says, "You can go to college, unless if you want to follow classes or college I have a little policy consisting of $200 to go to college." - Yeah, I have money. How could I go?

**Janet:** After you retired, how was your life here in Concord?

**Socrates:** Fine, it’s alright. Well I had changed the routine, I didn't forget about going to college, taking special courses and this and then that. Try to get acquainted with voice from various classes and some people I knew them before I had even was inducted and slow but sure I applied myself in. I started picking up little English. Otherwise I would have been--

**Janet:** How do you feel about having come to this country and lived here in this country all these years?

**Socrates:** It was fine, for me it was like having a new toy.

**Janet:** Do you consider yourself Greek and American?

**Socrates:** Full-fledged Greek.

**Janet:** What do you think about the melting pot idea?

**Socrates:** That’s just a thing- saying you know otherwise.

**Janet:** You don't think people melt?

**Socrates:** No.

**Janet:** So there all the same?

**Socrates:** Yeah, I've heard that long time ago.

**Janet:** Do you remember Concard from the old days, anything different about it from when you first came here compared to now?

**Socrates:** Many many things, a lot of people where they had some [unclear 00:45:22] and they were good buildings, they were not the old sharks, they tore them down and they rebuild them new and then of course in the meantime they expanded, a lot of industry came here, the next town the same thing and the next town the same thing, so that’s how the thing extended.

**Janet:** Were there other ethnic groups besides Greek?

**Socrates:** Oh yeah.

**Janet:** What other groups came from what other countries besides from Greece?

**Socrates:** Mixed from all over, Greeks were there, Albanians- they claimed they were Albanians but they were not. Greek descent but they happened to be born in Albania and that’s it and then others. A lot of people came from Germany and they applied themselves and they had to learn something else.

**Janet:** So there were quite a few of people who immigrated and settled around here?

**Socrates:** Definitely, oh yes.

**Janet:** Okay, is there anything else you can think of about coming to this country that maybe we haven’t really talked about? Anything else you can think off about how it affected you coming here or were you glad that you went to Greece and studied Greek?

**Socrates:** Oh no, no that was number one that helped me immensely because if I didn't improve on my Greek, how would I be improving my Greek from Greece? Never.

**Janet:** So you're glad you went back and did that?

**Socrates:** Definitely, there is my picture from when we graduated high school in Trikala. You see what it says here? Trikala.

**Janet:** 1936.

**Socrates:** That’s it.

**Janet:** Oh so then that must be when you came to this country?

**Socrates:** When we graduated high school.

**Janet:** After you graduated high school?

**Socrates:** Not right away, I took one year or two.

**Janet:** So you maybe you came in 1937.

**Socrates:** Just about. Now here was the principle of the high school, this was one good professor there John [unclear 00:48:19], this guy was my favorite professor.

**Janet:** Why did you like him? What did you like about him?

**Socrates:** Because he was determined to do or die, either you learn or take the door [unclear 00:48:38], a front, side door, rear door we don't need you. If anybody who is around from these people here, this guy was physics and chemistry, this one here too.

**Janet:** It sounds like you're proud of the education you got in that high school?

**Socrates:** I most certainly was and if I had the opportunity I would proceed without any hesitation.

**Janet:** Do you think you were similar as a father to your children as your father was to you?

**Socrates:** My father wasn't here with me.

**Janet:** That’s right. He was away a lot while you were growing up.

**Socrates:** Sure, I grew away from him. I reminisce.

**Janet:** You remember anything that happened in your high school class that comes to mind?

**Socrates:** This guy became a major general and a cousin of mine, kind of his he was my classmate and a lot of them right here. This guy here he had a big position with the courts in Trikala, that’s me here. This is the guy that became a major general right here. That really brings a lot of memories to me.

**Janet:** Is it interesting to you to think back on these times?

**Socrates:** of course, that’s good food for thought.

**Janet:** How do you feel now about having come through Ellis Island, seeing the statue of liberty and all that?

**Socrates:** That was an item that was worthwhile and seeing it from a distance, I went with my family over there, all the kids and all that.

**Janet:** Okay, is there anything else you would like to say before we close?

**Socrates:** Well, maybe some other time too we'll finish off [chuckle].

**Janet:** Okay, I want to thank you very much.

**Socrates:** That’s alright, my pleasure.

**Janet:** I'm speaking with Socrates Boulgouras, who was born in the united states, went to Greece at about age six and then came back here we think now around 1937 because it was about a year or so after he graduated from high school and I want to thank you very much. This is Janet Levine for the National Park Service and I'm signing off.