

## Cleo Frantzeskos

Interviewee: Cleo Frantzeskos, 339 Old Quarry Road, Kingston, Duration: 23:44, June 30 2017			
Interviewed by: George Katinas; Translation and summary: Athina Peidou			
min:sec	File:	KGHP_17_FRANTZESKOS_C_20170630_KINGSTON_GKATINAS_AUDIO	
Interview Time	Chronology	Place	Description
0:33			Cleo's last name before getting married was Frangou.
0:42		Ammohostos	Cleo was born in the beautiful city of Ammohostos in Cyprus. The city is named after the sand. The sand there was very clear. Ammohostos was a very touristic city.
1:31			Cleo has 3 brothers. Both her parents came from Ammohostos. Her father was in a trade-business and also ran a hotel in Ammohostos. Her childhood years were good.
2:11			Cleo attended primary school very close to her house. Afterwards her school became a museum, Ammohostos museum, until the Turks invaded the city.
2:40			Cleo attended a female high school. Back in those days, high schools were separated by male and female.
2:58			After high school, Cleo moved to Athens to study education. She also took courses in Rome. When she moved to Canada she also took courses at the university of Regina, Saskatchewan.
3:32			Cleo won a European council Scholarship to study about tourism. Rome is like an open museum. Cleo used to speak Italian, she learned it well while she was there.
4:00			In Athens Cleo attended Charokopeion University. She stayed in the dorms. She and other Cypriot girls there (her friends) took many trips together, although not to Cyprus since it was far.
4:32			Many times her Greek friends invited her to their places all over Greece.
5:00			Cleo studied Home economics. In the curriculum they got to take courses in geography, tourism, etc.
5:25			Cleo studied before the Turkish invasion in Cyprus.
5:40			After studying in Rome, Cleo returned back to Cyprus. She started working on a contract basis, working for a short time (2 months) in different places, and later she was fully employed as teacher in small cities in Cyprus. Later there was an opening in Ammohostos and Cleo ended up working there.
6:33			Cleo met her husband Andreas at a wedding. They had some common friends that introduced Cleo to Andreas.
6:53			Cleo and Andreas got married in 1971 in Saint Nicholas church in Ammohostos. They had a lot of friends and relatives there.
7:17			After the wedding they went for a honeymoon to Venice, Corfu, Dubrovnik and Attalia. It was a very nice time.

8:33			Before coming to Canada, she already knew it was a big place that was very cold - with many trees, frozen trees which she saw through photographs. But she loved it, and she dreamed of coming here from Cyprus. When Cleo came to Canada, a lot of it was like she imagined but at the beginning it was also a shock. She was coming from a big city like Ammohostos and she moved to the small village of Saskatchewan. There was no drug market open overnight. It was difficult with small children. But there were good people there, and they had a good time.
9:25			It was harder to raise the children by herself without relatives, but Cleo's husband, Andreas, always helped her with their child raising.
9:54			Cleo and Andreas established a Greek school for the Greek students of Yorkton and Melville. There were approximately 10-12 students attending the school.
10:36			The school took place every Saturday. It started off being in Melville, but moved to Yorktown. It was half an hour away, and there were more students in that city.. She would bring some students from Melville there too.
11:19			Cleo wanted to help everyone preserve their Greek culture and language. There were more Greek people in other cities, so a lot of people would go there, but she wanted there to be something in that spot.
11:44			Cleo's brother was a doctor in Melville. That is why they moved there: he told them to come.
12:07			Her father died, and after a while Cleo brought her mother to Canada, where she stayed until she passed away. She lived with them.
12:44			After Melville they moved to Kingston. At the beginning it was very difficult for them to find a job as they were older. But here, there was already a Greek community, and a church.
13:15			In Melville there was no church. They bought a small place to make a church. Before that they went to Regina to attend church service, and it was a 2 hour drive... She liked that she didn't have to travel far to reach the Greek church now, as it was right in Kingston.
14:12			There were no Cypriots where she was. There were some people from Chios island in Melville. Cleo is still in touch with the Greeks she met in Yorkton and Melville.
15:08			Cleo was the teacher of the Greek School in Kingston for 12 years. She really liked it. She loves teaching children.
15:38			Unfortunately, she found that parents did not speak Greek to their children throughout the week. They would wait for the children to go to Greek school to learn Greek.
16:05			There were usually 20-25 students. Classes were offered every Saturday morning. They did classes, as well as folklore and dances. It was not only about the language.
17:09			Cleo tries to speak Greek with her grandchildren as much as see can. She reads books to them, they have the alphabet on their fridge... She tries to get them in touch with the Greek culture and language as much as possible.

17:58			The invasion of Turks to Cyprus still hurts Cleo a lot. She visits Cyprus and she can't go back to her city and her house. When she is here, she cannot forget her place of origin, but when she is there, she cannot go back to it, and it is like a big wound.
18:53			It is very difficult, but they have memories of their city. They try their best not to forget it, and to remember the good things about their place.
19:15			She is still not very sure if there will be a solution to the whole situation. Turkey doesn't allow the island to be united.
20:03			Before the invasion there were some Turkish-Cypriots living in the northern part of the island.
20:52			Turkish-Cypriots had a good relationship with the Greek-Cypriots before the invasion. Cleo's city was called Varosi.
21:37			The Turkish-Cypriots she remembers in her city were well educated and many of them attended their Greek high Schools. They all spoke Greek; although there were other Turkish schools if they wanted to go there. She remembers Turkish-Cypriots and Greek-Cypriots loved one another before the invasion, but afterwards it was different. They used to all live in the same city. Now, only Turkish-Cypriots live in Amohostos.
22:04	Present		Cleo was a member of Philoptohos. Now she isn't, but she helps the church and the community as much as she can.
22:30			Philoptohos organizes seminars and invites speakers. Philoptohos also donates to the hospital. They help with the "Interval House". They help the Church in general.
23:17			Philoptohos is an independent part of the community. There are weekly meetings for the members of the Philoptohos and open meetings to the public once a month.