

Audio recording transcript

Clip 1

Vivian Maier (VM): Now I think we are recording for the first time with this new gadget that I bought last summer from the Brisken, they had their garage sale. I bought twenty dollars worth of toys and odds and ends and I remember Jennifer Brisken and her brother, what is his name already?

Child: Jonathon

VM: Jonathon were so happy. And a lot of dolls which I never got round to giving to a little French girl I know and so on and so on. And we've been trying to straighten out this upper part of this uh... scotch seat 60. I used the number two side because the number one side had been used by my friend and her Hungarian friend and I didn't want to record and erase what her and she friend had jabbered about.

VM: Now we're going to start in a minute and I have two
Now I have to mention today's date 27th March 1978, we we're listening to the other side hambone players, the star of the play was Daniel Frank and it was wonderful and I see now why it was recorded on number two as I didn't want it to interfere with what had been recorded on one side now I hope that I am not speaking on top of anything else that has been recorded but I have a feeling that my friends only jabbered at the very beginning of this cassette.

VM: Now let me see what I have recorded as for the first time I'm using the speaker Normally I have not in the past because this machine came without a speaker and I was told that with a speaker it sounds better. Now let's see what we have done.

AUDIO ENDS.

Clip 2:

VM: Now we are ready to start

VM: The great actor... Uh, what do you call... Jordy Frank... is busy washing his hands because he has been in an unmentionable place and we are hoping that... we have done the right thing

VM: Tone is on 5
Volume is on 7
And let's hope for the best

Now there is a great actor from the hambone [an inferior 'ham' actor] company
Who is visiting me today
And he is going to read that what you call Daniel Frank

Now c'mon forward and do your reading

Child: ****inaudible**** Well first I'll have to wait for somebody to ask

VM in background: You ask the questions

Child: Who should I ask?

VM: Well, ask your brother, he'll be reappearing on the scene any minute

Child: OK

VM: Well come on!

Child: I'm waiting for...

VM: Well, don't wait just start asking the questions and by that time...

VM shouts: Hurry up tough guy! And use soap when you are washing your hands!

VM: Alright come on, I'm waiting for that question

Child chatters in the background

VM: Mr Hambone, he can hear you come on

Child: Jordy can you hear me?

VM: inaudible

Child: Hurry up Jord

VM: Well hurry up we're wasting a lot of precious tape

VM: Oh my god, and here's someone with an enormous... umm...

Child: ** talks over Vivian ** Now Jordan!

VM: Not an enormous snake as I was going to say, but an enormous comb that has a couple, well more than a couple of teeth missing. And let's hear those questions Mr Hambone come on!

Child: Jordan! Now, you know when people take little flutes and they make the snakes go like that, are the snakes hearing the horn?

Other child: No.

VM in background: Talk into the microphone

Child: Right, snakes are completely deaf

VM: I didn't know that, you see how interesting it is, you should talk to the younger generation

VM: Let me play this back and see how dreadful it is

Audio ends.

CLIP 3:

VM: I must say that, uh, no matter what we do the singing doesn't quite come out as well as it should. I suppose the paper you were holding in front of your mouth might have something to do with it.

VM: but we'll go on with the interview. Tell me something about yourself? In what grade are you in?

Child: 2nd

VM: I see, what is the name of your teacher

Child: Mrs something

VM: I see. And how old is she about? What would you say?

Child: I don't know

VM: and why don't you come over here not a million miles away from the machine. But what would your guess be?

Child: around 26

VM: I see. Is that old or young in your estimation?

Child: Medium

VM: I see. And is she tall? Thin? Short? Fat?

Child: kinda thin

VM: I see. And is she an agreeable just person?

Child: so, so

VM: I see. Now tell me something about your family. How many children are there?

Child: five

VM: Five?

Child: no, three!

VM: three, Oh. Now tell me about them.

Child: One's my sister who is the eldest and one's my brother who is the youngest

VM: I see, but now what are their names? and tell me something...

Child: Jennifer, is the sister, and Jordan is the brother

VM: I see. Tell me something about the temperament of your sister, what kind of person is she?

Child: well nice and you know

VM: Well I don't know, that's why I'm asking you, tell me

Child: Well you know like sometimes shes you know kinda ratty

VM: Uh huh, and then other times?

Child: Shes kinda nice, sometimes, you know

VM: uh huh, and how is the little brother?

Child: he's you know he's fussy and stuff

VM: I see and this time... for example meal times with your little brother, such as..

Child: He doesn't eat a lot and stuff and he takes ****inaudible****

VM: Uh huh, I see, I see, and describe your parent, young? Old?

Child: 24! I mean, 34!

VM: I see, is that the mother or father you are speaking of

Child: both

VM: I see and what is that medium age? In your estimation?

Child agrees

VM: can you describe your father?

Child: in what ways?

VM: well, physically, mentally and so on

Child: he takes a shower every morning. Eats early so he can get to work. He sells cars

VM: tell me is he a very busy man?

Child: Yes

VM: uh huh, does he spend a lot of time with you?

Child: No

VM: I see, why is that?

Child: Because he has to work

VM: I see. And your mother?

Child: She stays home a lot and stuff. Plays with us at night, eats with us

VM: I see, who do you like best? Your mother or father?

Child: My Mammy

VM: I see, I see. And who do you like best, your brother or sister best?

Child: my sister

VM: I see, I see this is very interesting and then of course you have also other relations, your grandparents, haven't you? Tell me something about them

Child: Ones name is Grandpa Ted, Ones name is Grandma Sally and Granny Alice and ones name is ****inaudible****

VM: and do you think grandparents are better than parents or what?

Child: No

VM: No, I see. And why is that?

Child: Because like they don't know me as well and stuff

VM: I see. And now what is your ambition for the future?

Child: What do you mean?

VM: well, what do you want to become? A fireman or?

Child: A magician

VM: Oh I see, and what do you think your sister wants to become?

Child: I don't know

VM: And what about your little brother?

Child: I think he wants to become a fireman, or policeman

VM: I see, I see and tell me something about the place you live in, is it an exciting place or dull or what?

Child: so and so

VM: uh huh, what are the advantages of being where you are? The town is called winacre isn't it?

Child agrees

VM: and how would you describe it? Is it an exciting place or what?

Child agrees

VM: Why?

Child: Well you know it's like near Chicago and some people are busy and stuff

VM: I see. Now let me see, we have covered up, oh yes, a lot of territory and tell me about your school, when is the play going to be on? I had the impression it was going to be today but it wasn't.

Child: 27th

VM: I see

VM: well I think now our interview has come to a close, incidentally we forgot to mention the year, 1977 and that's about it.

Audio ends