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Interview with Mr. Samuel Facciolo, Italian immigrant, at his home at 110 N. Scott Street, September 18, 1968, by Francis J. Fierro.

Q Now, Mr. Facciolo, there are a couple of things, just to start out.

A When I come to United States?

Q No, I want to start before the part when you came to the United States. I would like to start with when you were in Italy.

A When I was in Italy?

Q Yeah. I'd like to know, for example, where you were born in Italy.

A Oh. I was born in Suriano Calabro [sp].

Q Suriano . . . Calabro.

A Yeah. My wife [inaudible] . . . .

Q Where is that located in Italy?

A That's Calabria.

Q Calabria.

A Yes, Calabria.

Q Um hmm. What year were you born?

A The 15 in May [inaudible - exchange in Italian with person in background].

Q 1892, huh?

A Yes.

Q Now, what did your father do in Italy?

A Stonemason.

Q He was a stonemason in Italy? Now, did you work as a stonemason in Italy too?

A A little bit.

Q A little bit? Did you go to school in Italy?

A No, no much . . . no much. Little bit . . . just a little bit.

Q About what, about two years there?

A Yeah, about two years.

Q How old were you when you started school?

A Oh, I was about five or six years, seven years.

Q About six or seven years old?

A Yeah.

Q Um hmm. Now the school that you went to, was it a public school?

A No, it was a priest. It was a priest . . . and private.

Q It was a private Catholic school, then.

A But they don't have much school that day. [Inaudible] . . . just a little bit.

Q What sort of things did they teach you?

A Oh, they teach regular school . . .

Q What, they teach reading, writing, history . . .

A Yeah, reading and writing, yes. Reading and writing.

Q Now, when you . . .

A But, you know, a few . . . because, you know, nobody could afford to go to school over there.

Q Well, it cost a lot of money, right.

A No, no was for the money . . . 60 years ago, all the way back, people . . . my daddy, 65, 60 years . . . my daddy, he never seen schools over there. There was no school at all, that day. Only at that time the priest [inaudible] . . . the read and write. And the people was all blind.

Q In other words, if somebody had to have a letter written, he went to the priest and let the priest do it for him.

A Well, yeah, yeah . . . it always was a mess over there.

Q What was the school like, just one room?

A One room, you know, and maybe a hall in there.

Q And that was all.

A That's all . . . school would be established someplace, [inaudible] . . . those who wants to go, go, those who no want to go no go. They didn't enforce it even.

Q That's right, it wasn't . . .

A No, they come . . . somebody push you today, you got to go. If you want to go, go, I say no, "You stay right at home."

Q I see. Now what year was it that you came to the United States?

A That was . . . I come . . . I have trouble now remember the . . . I come Ancona . . . Ancona I come here.

Q You came on the Ancona?

A Ancona, yeah.

Q Was that an Italian ship?

A Yeah. Ancona. And that's . . . they lost the Ancona the time of the war . . . the Germans, they put 'em down.

Q What, in the First World War?

A The First War.

Q It was sunk.

A Yeah, they [inaudible] . . . it was about 200 people, I guess.

Q Really? Well, do you remember approximately what year you came to the United States?

A I come to . . . '07, '07.

Q 1907?

A Yeah.

Q You came to the United States in 1907. Why did you come to the United States?

A My brother called me.

Q Your brother came here first?

A I had my brother here, and he called me over here. See, because . . . I left my . . . either because my . . . I didn't have no mother . . . mother dead. And I'd been staying with my stepmother. I don't get along good.

Q You didn't get along with your stepmother.

A No, with my stepmother. And my brother called me over here, I come to the United States. That day . . . not much money that day, you know. I come here for $25.00 that trip that time.

Q That's how much it cost for the trip, just $25.

A Just $25, uh huh. I worked for 50¢ a day [inaudible] . . . that was enough money. And I left the stonemason, I go work down at . . . 30th Street? . . . 33? . . . West Philadelphia, where they kill the cow and pig, everything in there.

Q What, a stock market? The stockyard, yeah.

A Yeah, the . . . the butcher . . .

Q Yeah, where they butchered the animals. Before we get into this, though, I wanted to know where you left Italy from. Did you leave from Naples?

A Yeah, from Naples.

Q How did you get to Naples from Calabria?

A On the train.

Q On the train? Did they have a train station in your town?

A Oh, sure, yeah.

Q Oh, you lived in a fairly good-sized city, then.

A No. I had to come from my town, I had to go to the coach, to get the train.

Q Well, like a stagecoach.

A Yeah, like you go to Pennsylvania with us, you know. Had to go down to Pennsylvania Station, get the coach with a horse and go over there with a horse.

Q Oh, I see. And you left from there and you went straight to Naples and got a ship.

A Yeah. I left from Naples, I go on the ship . . .

Q Come on to the United States. Now, when you made arrangements to come to the United States, did you have to go to . . .

A The man . . . they call it . . . the [inaudible] of the United States.

Q You had to go to a consulate to . . .

A Yeah, the man, the man, not the . . . yeah, yeah, yeah, you gotta go to the consulate, that's right, to get your passport. That's right.

Q Did you have any trouble getting a passport?

A No, no, no, no . . . small. Since I was no big, I can come to the United States. First it was the Army and then they let you come, see. You

gotta be below the . . . before the [inaudible - either forty or fourteen] years old . . . you come to the United States . . . before . . . you gotta go service the government first.

Q Now, you were about fourteen years old when you came here.

A Yeah, fourteen years old.

Q Now, how long did it take the ship to go from Naples to the United States, do you remember?

A You mean . . . from Naples here, United States? About 15 days I think.

Q About fifteen days?

A Yeah . . . some [inaudible] . . . it'd be about a month. That day the boats would go like this.

Q Very slowly, huh?

A Very slow.

Q Did it stop anywhere along the way?

A Gibraltar.

Q Gibraltar. Was that the only stop?

A Yeah, only stop.

Q How long did it stay there?

A Well, it stay one day.

Q One day. Did you have passengers . . . pick up passengers, drop off passengers, get fuel and so on?

A Yeah, come on to the United States, yeah.

Q O.K. Now, you landed in New York, right?

A Yeah.

Q Did anybody meet you in New York?

A My brother.

Q Your brother met you.

A My brother, yeah. [Inaudible] . . . he take me home. [Inaudible] . . . if they don't send somebody over there, they take you out. And when I come, my brother took me out, took me out with him home.

Q Did you have any trouble when you got to New York?

A No, no trouble at all.

Q Did they give you a health examination and everything?

A No. Because I no stand in line. I no stand in line and the people think maybe [inaudible] . . .

Q That you'd already been examined.

A Yeah. Because once they open the boat, you gotta stand in line over there. They call the men outside . . . now, me I was too happy . . . I see my brother outside, told my brother, said, "I'm coming down right away." I see the door open, and I went out. And nobody knew that I go. And I go home and so . . . I save myself time.

Q Where did your brother live?

A My brother's dead now.

Q I say, where did he live at that time?

A Oh, he be living at Philadelphia at that time.

Q He lived in Philadelphia at that time? So you went right straight to Philadelphia.

A Yeah . . . I say because [inaudible] . . . no, Front [inaudible] . . . they live over there. [Sounds like "Front Scenaro"] where stayed the boat. That boat . . . that's right over here, boat.

Q Oh, the boat came to Philadelphia.

A Boat came to Philadelphia, yeah.

Q Oh, then you didn't get off in New York.

A No, New York, no, no. I get off over here.

Q Oh, you got off in [inaudible] . . . in Philadelphia, then.

A No. Philadelphia, yeah, I remember now.

Q Oh, so you got off in Philadelphia.

A Yeah, the boat come right into Philadelphia.

Q Did it stop in New York first?

A It stopped in New York [inaudible] . . . and it come in the Delaware.

Q Oh, it came . . . up the Delaware [inaudible].

A Yeah. Come down to Pennsylvania . . . down to Philadelphia . . . South Street.

Q On South.

A South . . . yeah, Front South . . . Front South . . . I get off over there. And I was supposed to stand in line over there. When you get off over there, you stand in line, they call the name, they call you from Italy. We was two brothers, you know . . . and I see all happy, he says, "Well, go on, come out." I come out, I get my suitcase . . .

Q And you got all excited and you just grabbed your bags and [inaudible, both talking at once].

A . . . "Let's go home."

Q O.K., now, your brother worked as a stonemason in those days, didn't he?

A Stonemason, yeah, he was stonemason.

Q Was he married then?

A Oh, yeah, he have four kids.

Q Oh, then he had his own house and . . .

A Oh, he have his own house, yeah.

Q But you stayed with your brother.

A I stayed with my brother, yeah, in Philadelphia.

Q Now, you were only 14 years old when you got here. Did you go to work right away when you got here?

A Yeah. My brother was a foreman of the stonemason, and they . . . under him, you know, I be working . . . a little bit, you know . . . and after I left the stonemason I went down there where they kill cows, pigs and everything, in West Philadelphia, West Philadelphia at the meat place over there at that time. I got $1.00 a day. $1.00 a day.

Q At the stockyards.

A Yeah. They pay me a dollar a day . . . six dollars a week . . .

Q You worked six days a week? How many hours did you work each day?

A Eight hours . . . for $1.00.

Q Just eight hours a day?

A Yeah, for $1.00. That was good money them days.

Q When you worked with your brother, how many hours a day did you work?

A Eight hours. Eight hours.

Q What was the pay then as a stonemason?

A Well, it . . . I make maybe 50¢ a day.

Q 50¢ a day.

A Yeah, they penny a day. [Inaudible] . . . there was nothing in this country . . . no money at all. And at that time, I say, "Well, that's about the end of the [inaudible] . . . the stonemason," I say, "I better go join the Army." And I joined the Army.

Q Now, when you joined the Army, was that after you worked in the stockyards?

A Yeah. I worked over there, and then I enlisted in the Army. Over there I get $15.00 a month [inaudible] . . . board, everything, I don't have to worry nothing, so I better join the Army. And I joined the Army. And I was in the 3rd Regiment, [sounds like "Mortar Weapon"], the 3rd Regiment. I was in the cavalry.

Q In the cavalry.

A And I was in Mexico; I was in Mexico, too . . . El Paso.

Q Oh, you went to . . .

A Yeah, I was in El Paso, from Philadelphia, we went to El Paso, they had trouble the United States with Mexico. Mexico had trouble with the United States at that time, see. It was the year that Carranza over there, see, [inaudible] . . . And the United States had trouble with Mexico at that time, see.

Q That was right during the First World War . . . right before.

A Uh huh . . . before . . . before they call up. First they have over there trouble, and [inaudible] . . . and from there I come to the United States, from there I come to the United States, I come to New York. And I was M.P., military police.

Q Let me ask you a couple of more questions about Mexico when you were down there. When you were in Mexico, you said you were in the cavalry. Were you chasing after these Pancho Villa . . .

A No, we stay in one place. We came to one place. We came up here before El Paso . . . El Paso down there and Mexico up here, it's all mountain.

Q You were in the United States, then . . .

A Yeah, United States, sure United States Army.

Q But what I mean is, you didn't go into Mexico after 'em.

A No, we don't go in there. We don't go in. We stay over there but we wait for the trouble to come . . . Carranza against the United States.

Might have been stay still . . . we don't want no trouble . . . we don't have no trouble . . . no fight.

Q What year was this?

A He wants to start fight, but [inaudible] . . . there was trouble over there, El Paso.

Q Do you remember what year that was?

A No, I don't remember. The President Wilson.

Q Under President Wilson. O.K. Now, when you left El Paso, Texas, you came back to the East Coast, right?

A Come back to the United States.

Q What part of the East Coast . . . where were you, in New York?

A I was in New York . . . New York . . . Camp Oppen [sp], New York.

Q What camp?

A Camp Oppen, New York . . . Camp Oppen, New York.

Q O.K. Now how long did you stay there?

A Well, I stayed all the time of the war.

Q You never went overseas?

A No, I didn't go no further, no . . . I serve duty in New York.

Q I see.

A I was in the M.P., military police.

Q Yes, what sort of things did you do for duty? How did you spend your duty hours?

A Like police, you know, like police.

Q Just patrolling?

A Oh, yeah, yeah, police duty.

Q Uh huh, this was the kind of work you did.

A Yeah, that's all.

Q Now, when you got out of the Army, was that after the First World War was ended?

A Yeah. After I get out of the Army, I come home and go back to work as

stonemason.

Q O.K., now when you first went in the Army, how was your English? Did you speak as well as . . .

A Little bit . . . little bit. I pick up a little with the United States, see, with the Army.

Q Did you have any trouble when you were in the Army?

A No, no trouble . . . no trouble . . . everybody like me.

Q You got along with everybody.

A I got along good. I got a [inaudible] discharge. Very good. [Inaudible] as a private . . . I was a first-class private.

Q Now, when you first came to the United States, did you ever run into any problems because you were an Italian?

A No, no, no.

Q You never had any problems.

A No trouble . . . I no have trouble with nobody.

Q Nobody ever showed any discrimination towards you or anything.

A No, no trouble at all.

Q O.K., now . . .

A It was bad, that day, because Italian people that day, not much pull, we don't have no pull, and not much . . . my . . . we was wearing nothing, no have a damn thing on . . . we was very poor people that day. There was nothing in the house, there was no rug, no chair good, no table, nothing. The stove was in the kitchen, so no heat, nothing.

Q No heat in the house, just a stove in the kitchen and that was it.

A Cook in the kitchen.

Q And the stove did your heat and you cooked on it too.

A That's right, cook over there with the coal [inaudible] . . . that's all, no heat. No . . . didn't have no electrical . . . [inaudible] they started gas, we had gas.

Q Before you had the gas, what did you have for lights in the house?

A Lights . . . candles.

Q You used candles?

A We used candles, yeah . . . no, coal oil lamp . . . coal oil.

Q Coal oil?

A Coal oil lamp. Coal oil lamp, that's right . . . coal oil. And then they started gas coming, and we had light with the gas with match.

Q Gas lamps, you had sticking out of the wall like sconces . . .

A [Inaudible]

Q And this is what they had. Now, when you got out of the Army, did you go back to Philadelphia?

A Si, right away. Discharged from Camp Oppen, yeah. I came to Fort Dix.

Q You were discharged at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Then you went back to Philadelphia.

A Right.

Q Now, you went back . . . did you go back to work with your brother as a stonemason?

A No, I worked for somebody else. Somebody contracted me . . . name of McCardy [sp].

Q McCardy. Was the pay better when you went back than what you made . . .

A Well, a little bit more money, that's all . . . no money . . . there was no money.

Q Do you remember about what the wages were after World War I?

A They was very cheap. I come here, my God, after I been working [inaudible] for $1.00 an hour . . . $1.00 an hour, and I went back to work here . . .

Q When you came to Wilmington.

A When I come to Wilmington, I go to work with the Spark Company for $1.00 an hour.

Q Well, when did you come to Wilmington?

A That's about 35 years ago. Of course I been . . . 25 years I was in Philadelphia.

Q You were in Philadelphia 35 years.

A For 25.

Q 25.

A 25 years I was over there because four kids were born in Philadelphia, four kids. And four born over here, four, in Delaware, four over here I got. I got four kids over there, and four kids I got in Delaware. Four born over there.

Q Uh huh. Now, when you went back to Philadelphia, did you go back to live with your brother, after you got out of the Army?

A Yeah. No, no . . . I went back with my cousin . . . a cousin of mine.

Q Oh, you had a cousin there also.

A Yeah, I got plenty of people . . . I got plenty of people over there. Yeah, I go and live with my cousin.

Q Yeah. Now, you had to pay room and board, right?

A Paid when I'm born?

Q No, pay room and board where you lived.

A Yeah.

Q Was it very expensive? Was that . . .

A Well, when I come from the [inaudible] . . . I pay $10.00 a month . . . a week.

Q $10.00 a week? And that covered everything.

A That covered everything . . . board and everything. House and everything.

Q Well, after World War I, was it the same?

A Same thing . . . same thing, yeah. Well, after this war [inaudible] went up in price, [inaudible] . . . .

Q O.K., now, tell me something. When you weren't working, what did you use to do for entertainment? Did you go to movies, did you go play cards, go . . .

A Oh, I enjoyed myself . . . good times . . . you have [inaudible] company in that day . . . that was better than now. Serenade . . . go with my girls . . . with my girl . . . see my girl. "I go down [inaudible] your girl, tonight we'll serenade over there," have a good time, play cards. [Inaudible] . . . good time over there.

Q This is what you used to do . . . in other words, people used to entertain themselves instead of . . .

A We had more good times before, not today . . . yes, the old people they had more good times that day.

Q You used to have good times with one another instead of . . .

A Yeah, we go, you know, your house tonight, we go to another house tomorrow, my house, you know, friend, you know . . . go see your girl over there, serenade . . . have a good time dancing and playing. Yeah, play cards . . . I have a lot of fun.

Q Where you lived, were they mostly all Italian people?

A Oh, yeah, I have not much that day . . . I was for seven years on a street, they was all Jews . . . two Italian people . . . two family, the rest all Jews.

Q Oh, really? How'd you get along with them?

A Good, good [inaudible] . . . .

Q Well, when you worked as a stonemason, did everybody else that worked for the same contractor, were they all Italians that worked with them?

A Yes, was all Italian . . . all Italian. See, that day, that's all Italian people would be the stonemasons . . . a few people Irish, few people . . . but [inaudible] was all Italian.

Q They were practically all Italian people.

A Yeah. There was a lot of work stone . . . all stone the house . . . stone stair, everything. Not today, they work with block . . . before, these all stone cellar they make 'em. Not today . . . cost too much.

Q No, today they don't use stone too much. Costs too much to work it.

A Yeah, too much money. Pretty much all stonemasons gone . . . all dead. I had a bunch . . . and I got about twenty friends of mine stonemasons, all gone. One die every year. Only left about five, six.

Q That's about a lost art now, isn't it?

A Yeah. The old people all gone.

Q When you first came to Wilmington, it was around what, 1930?

A About 1930 . . . it was about 1930.

Q Now that was right in the middle of the Depression.

A Yeah . . . yeah.

Q How did the Depression hit you when you were in Philadelphia?

A Depression over there was bad. My wife had been working. My wife had been working to get something to make . . . might be [inaudible] about $10.00 a week. And I remember everything was cheap, the housing, the . . .

Q It was cheap to live, but . . .

A Very cheap, very cheap.

Q But it was a problem . . .

A Might be for 5¢ I buy my lunch. [Inaudible] . . . they give us soup, they give vegetable, [inaudible], cheese sandwich, anything you want. For 5¢.

Q For a nickel, yeah. Of course today with a nickel you can't buy anything.

A No [inaudible] . . . you can't buy a peanut. No, can't buy nothing. That day, kids . . . my kids, I give them a penny for the ice cream outside here . . . for the wagon . . . might be a penny or two pennies, they go buy ice cream. Now you can't do that.

Q So things have changed a lot.

A Oh, my gosh.

Q Now, when you came here to Wilmington, the Depression was still on. Why did you come to Wilmington? Why did you come here to Wilmington?

A Well, because it was so little job in Philadelphia that I come over here, my brother had more work here.

Q Oh, you had . . .

A He had a friend, you know, my brother want to take me . . . his friend take him to DiSabatino to work. DiSabatino pay pretty good that day. He pay $1.25.

Q That was $1.25 a day?

A No, an hour . . . an hour . . . an hour, they started to come up in price. And then I quit over there, I went to Spark, he give me $1.00 an hour. I left DiSabatino and I went to Spark Company.

Q Well, why did you go to work with Sparks . . .

A Well, because it was more easy. Over there with DiSabatino, you had to work. He give you $1.25, but I had to make it. They push you, a little bit of pushing, see, if you don't work too much. I work with Spark, he have a good crew over there . . . Apostolico . . . see, the Apostolico's the high man in there . . .

Q He was the foreman, right?

A There was a foreman over there, they give me good job, I can take charge of the stonemasons, I had a gang of men.

Q In other words, he put a gang of stonemasons around this foreman.

A [Inaudible - both talking at once.]

Q How long did you stay with Sparks?

A I worked there about 20 years.

Q Oh, you stayed with Sparks 'til you retired, then.

A Yeah, long time . . . long time . . . when I come from Philadelphia [inaudible] . . .

Q Oh, so you stayed with Sparks about 'til you retired, then, is that it?

A Yeah, I retired . . . no, I no retired with him. I retired with my cousin, Facciolo, Facciolo [inaudible] Company.

Q Oh, I see.

A Yeah, he's got . . . it's called another company now . . . That's a cousin of mine, Facciolo.

Q O.K. Now, did you work all during the Depression?

A The Depression? Yeah, I work in the Depression. I work [inaudible].

Q You worked with Sparks all through . . .

A No, no, no, I worked with the A.P. or P.A. or what that name . . . relief . . . relief, what they had, that was the relief.

Q Right. The W.P.A.

A Yeah, that's what it was, yeah.

Q You worked at the W.P.A., then . . .

A I had 30 hours a week that they make. I make about $31.00 a week.

Q Well, that was pretty good money during the Depression.

A Yeah . . . I work on the [sounds like "Ridgemoor"]

Q When you came to the United States, did you ever go to night school at all?

A No . . . no.

Q You never went.

A No . . . I didn't go . . . a little bit in the Army. They teach me in the Army a little bit.

Q O.K. Well, during the '20s, during the middle '20s and the late '20s, when Mussolini was coming to power in Italy, how did the Italians in the United States feel about him at that time?

A Oh, everybody [inaudible] . . . they all happy then . . . they was all happy then, because he was a good man . . . he was a good man. My God, he fix Italy. He fix Italy . . . Italy was a mess over there. Everything going to [inaudible] . . . and they fix Italy. The street . . . they take all the people hungry . . . everything, give everything . . . he was a very good man. That's why [inaudible] . . . they take it from him, everything over here in the United States, he start over there for his people, [inaudible] . . . everything, Mussolini.

Q And the public works and everything . . .

A Yes, after Roosevelt [inaudible] . . . . No, he was fine . . . yeah, he take care of Italy.

Q What did you think of Herbert Hoover when he was President?

A Who?

Q Hoover.

A Hoover? Oh, he was a mess. That's a mess. I lost a home, you see, at that time. 617 Scott Street at this time. It was a mess. And then [inaudible] . . . I got $500 [inaudible] . . . I had a policy from the United States, policy, $1,800.00, I think it was.

Q That was what, the Army policy?

A The Army policy, yeah. And the time I cash it, they give me $500.00 one time, [inaudible] another time, so much money at a time.

Q So and this kept you going and that helped you buy this house.

A This house, that's right. [Inaudible] . . . . They give you the bonds, you know, when you get out of the Army at that time, they give you bonds.

Q Uh huh. Oh, they gave you bonds?

A They give me bonds. They give me bonds of $1,000. I had I have $1,000, fifteen hundred . . . they give it to me . . . the Army give it to me, yeah. [Inaudible] . . . but it was pretty good.

Q What kind of bonds were they?

A They was bonds . . . see, I been home 20 years, I better get good money.

Q Uh huh. Did you buy them while you were in the Army?

A No, I don't buy 'em, no, they give it to you.

Q The Army just gave it to you.

A They give it to me, yes. That day, they give it, they give anybody.

Q Oh, you didn't have to pay anything on it at all.

A No, no . . . no.

Q Is that the policy you're talking about that you cashed in?

A I cash it . . . the government give me . . . they send bonds. They send bonds. It was government bonds.

Q Now, after the Depression started, when they had that march of the Army veterans that went to Washington . . .

A Yeah.

Q You remember that.

A I remember . . . I remember that. I remember.

Q What did you think of that when they did start this march?

A Well, they didn't do nothing over there . . . they didn't do nothing by going down there.

Q But did you think it was a crazy thing that they . . .

A Crazy, right, crazy . . . very crazy.

Q But after the march was over, the government gave . . . did the government give bonuses to all veterans of World War I after that march?

A They give, yes . . . they give.

Q Well, you got the bonus, too, then.

A And that's the one I got . . . yeah.

Q That's the bonus, right there. And those were the bonds that you're talking about.

A Yeah, I had $1,000 . . . one thousand, fifteen hundred . . . yeah, thousand fifteen.

Q Uh huh. And this is the bonds that you were talking about.

A Yeah. They give you.

Q Uh huh. Now, after the Depression started to ease off again, did you go back to work with Sparks?

A Yeah. I went back with him. [Inaudible], yeah.

Q And you stayed with him until . . .

A I stayed with him, yes.

Q 'Til about what year?

A I stayed with . . . well, let's put it . . . I worked with my cousin about 15 years . . . no, I worked for about 10 years over there . . . ten years with my cousin over there. The rest I put all with Spark. Spark I been a long, long time . . .

Q You were with him for a long while.

A I been with him a long time, yeah. I worked for a lot of people, Papaleo, I worked that . . . DiSabatino, Spark Company, a lot of places, for Manitesta [sp?] . . . I work for a lot of people.

Q Uh huh. Now, when the war started, when the United States got into World War II, what was your reaction to this war? Now, you came from Italy, and here the United States and Italy are at war.

Q Well . . . I had three boys in the Army myself here, the United States, I had three in the United States in the Army. I don't say nothing. Very sad . . . but it happened.

Q I know, it happened, but . . .

A [Inaudible] . . . I can't say anything.

Q I know, but I guess you felt kind of bad about . . .

A Well . . . this country they be in trouble, my boys went in the Army, they call 'em, they gotta go. No trouble at all.

Q Now, if you were to look back on your life in this country from the time that you came here, what changes could you say you saw?

A Oh, plenty of changes . . . changed plenty . . . plenty.

Q Uh huh. Could you describe some of the changes . . .

A Well, it's more money today . . . now they got a new everything. Before they had nothing, now today you got some . . . you make $100, you spend $50 and $50 you put 'em in the bank if you want. You can do that. Now that day I never save $10, $20 in that day. I don't know . . . $10, never. When I went in the Army I saved $10 gold . . . $5.00 in gold . . . get paid in gold that time. [Inaudible] . . . today that's too much money. Too much expense. Nobody making enough money.

Q Yeah, there's a big change in the amount of money. But how about life in general? How did you . . .

A Life?

Q Yeah, the way you lived then, the way you live now, how would you characterize that?

A Well, it's more better today. They've got everything.

Q Could you tell me in what way it's better?

A Well, because you got everything. That day you have nothing, no heat, you don't have any [inaudible], you don't have a table, no nothing there, nothing, it was [inaudible] . . . . 60 years ago, there was nothing in this country. This country was very [sounds like "slop"] . . . [inaudible] . . . didn't have nothing. They throw [inaudible] outside in the yard. People'd wash their clothes, in the yard they'd wash 'em.

Q Well, when did these things start to change? When did you notice a change? Now, certainly when the change was happening, you don't notice it too much because it's so gradual. But now when you look back on it, you can probably see where certain things started to change. Could you point out some of the things . . . could you point out some of the times when . . .

A Times.

Q Yes, when things started to change. For example . . .

A Changed after the war, you know. After the war, big change.

Q After what war did it start to change?

A It changed . . .

Q After World War I?

A Yes.

Q What changes started to happen then? How did life get a little better?

A They changed more money, more [inaudible] people, you saw more money and everything. They make and they spend that money. Because they want a good . . . live like a gentleman . . . good home. Everybody got their good home, you know.

Q O.K., now what started to change in the house after the First World War? For example, before the First World War, you had just a coal stove and nothing else, O.K.? Now after the First World War . . .

A Coal stove . . . yeah, we change everything. We got heat, we got a range, we got everything . . . everything you want in a house. A washing machine, we got everything you want.

Q That was after World War I?

A After that.

Q This was when things started to change.

A Uh huh. That's when times started good. Of course the prices went up right away.

Q All the prices went up and your wages went up with them.

A Yeah, prices went up.

Q And there were more things available to buy.

A That's right. Because I worked down at [inaudible] the First War . . . this war . . .

Q The Second World War, in Drago . . .

A Yeah, I work down at Drago . . .

Q Drago, where the ships . . .

A On the ships . . . they make boats over there. I worked for . . . let's see, $1.25, I believe, an hour. $1.25 an hour. The minute I get out, I went to work as a stonemason, I have three dollars an hour, when I started to . . .

Q Oh, in other words, you meant after World War II was when things changed.

A Yes.

Q This is when you had the biggest change.

A That's right, big change.

Q All right, so you did have a change between World War I and World War II, but it was a much more gradual change, is that it?

A Oh, yeah, yeah.

Q It was during that time that you got centralized heating in the house?

A That's right, the heat, everything . . . toilet in the house, everything.

Q Then after World War I . . . after World War II, rather, then things got a lot more refined.

A They did.

Q Then you got a lot more of everything, and a lot more money, and things . . .

A Yes, yes . . . we got everything now . . . today we got everything. We never see the stuff that we got now today, [inaudible] . . . no land, nothing. Now everything changed . . . automobile . . . I have automobile . . . first one I have automobile [sounds like "I sign a six-year"] . . . two automobiles six-year . . . me and somebody else across the street. Nobody have a car over here . . . only me.

Q That was before World War II.

A Yeah, the First War . . . after the First War.

Q Oh, after the First World War . . .

A The First War . . . after the First War . . . then I buy this automobile. After the First War, when I got the money from the government I buy a . . . yeah, it was . . . what'd I buy? It was a Packard, one called a Packard. [Inaudible - tape interference] . . . . No machinery that day. No telephone, nobody got a telephone. I have a [inaudible] and somebody across the street to telephone, you see . . . nobody had a telephone. Only me have a car and somebody else [inaudible] . . . two cars this street, [inaudible] . . . .

Q Now things after World War II really changed.

A [Inaudible] . . . plenty, plenty change . . . big change . . . very big change.

Q So now we got into the . . .

A Now, today, you got everything you want . . . everything. You don't nothing [inaudible] . . . you don't need nothing. But then when I was [inaudible] here], you don't have nothing. Lady would brush the floor . . . wash the clothes in the yard . . . no water inside, outside.

Q Um hmm, everything was outside. Now, when you consider what your life was like before and what it's like now, there certainly is no comparison in the two, right?

A It's a better life before.

Q Now it's a much better life.

A Much better, yeah. Living more long, they been living. Now today the life would kill the people.

Q You said before they lived a better life.

A Yeah, more better.

Q Would you rather be living the way you lived, say thirty or forty years ago than right now?

A Yeah, yeah . . . more better.

Q Why would you . . .

A Why? Because not much worry then . . . not too much expense . . . that day we don't have no expense at all. Just pay the shoes for the kids, 10¢, 25¢, their shoes, that's all. Today that don't buy anything. Too much . . . too much.

Q Do you think you enjoyed yourself better . . .

A Yeah, I enjoyed myself . . . I had a good time. Very good . . . I pass my life very good.

Q And you think the life in the olden days was much better.

A It was better before . . . better than now.

Q It was better then than it is now.

A Yeah, better before, yeah.

Q It was a tougher life, but . . .

A Yeah. Don't have much money, but I have more good time. And not much worry. Our house was cheap, we eat cheap, costs were cheap, everything cheap.

Q Uh huh. Then you . . .

A [Inaudible] . . . you don't go over $10.00 at the store, nothing.

Q $10.00. And you do say you preferred life the way it was before now.

A Before, yes.

Q You said you had a better time . . .

A Better time, right, good time.

Q What sort of good times did you have then that you don't now?

A Well, I been go gun, join in the house with [inaudible], eat, play cards, have [inaudible] . . . happy. Very happy.

Q In other words, you enjoyed yourself with your friends more then than now.

A Yeah, yeah.

Q O.K. Fine. Is there anything else that you'd like to add to what I've already talked about?

A No.

[END OF INTERVIEW]