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Interview With

Mr. Nicola Troise
514 North Lincoln Street
Wilmington, Delaware

Interviewed by
Francis Fierro
November 23, 1968

Transcribed by
Carolyn Fierro
April 1972

This is an interview with Mr. Nicola Troise of
514 North Lincoln Street in Wilmington, Delaware. O. K.
Mr. Troise, where were you born?

1898, eighth of February.

You were born the eighth of February, 1898?

Eighth of February.

Where?

Italy.

In Italy? O. K., now whereabouts in Italy were you
born?

Montore Superiore.

Montore Superiore. Now I want to spell that. That's
M o n t o r e S u p e r i o r e. Montore Superiore.

Avellina.

In Avellina?

O. K. That's Avellina?

That's it.

Does it have two l's in it? Due(Italian) l's.

Due(Italian) l's. Avellina got two l's in it.

Oh, it has two l's. Avellina is spelled with two
l's.

Yes. Two l's, yea.

Where's provincia de Avellina? Where is it located?

That's in Naples state.

In Naples State.

Yea. Campagna.

In Campagna.

Campagna.....same way....your father's state.

Right.

We State of Campagna. We call them Stato Napolitano.
(This is exactly what Mr. Troise said. However,
he meant it's in the state of Campagna whose
principal city is Naples.) Non siamo propio di

Napoli(We're not right from Naples.) See, they call it Naples,
you know. The principal cities are Avellina, Caserta....you
know....where your father come from....Salerno, Benevento.
They all belong to the state of Naples, but they call it the
state of Campagna.

The biggest city, of course, is Naples.

The biggest city is Naples. Yea.

The biggest city in the whole country.

Yes, Naples and I come over in 1915.

Uh huh, but before we get to that, what did your
father do in Italy?

Well, I tell you. My father was a farmer. Francis,
he was a farmer. He die when he was fifty years old. I
didn't even know my father.

Oh, you didn't even know your father?

See, I was born eight months after my father die.

Oh.

Then I had two stepfather. My mother married
two times.

Uh huh.

And they both die. My mother die too. She die
1942.

Uh huh.

She pretty old....was eighty-four years old.

Uh huh.

And he born 1858.

But she died 1942.

Yes. My father must have died 1897 'cause I born
1898.

O. K., right. So you came to this country say 1915.
1915.

1915. Right.

And you were seventeen years old?

Yea, seventeen.

What did you do in Italy before you came to this
country?

Well, I was work on farm.

You worked on the farm. Did you ever go to school in

Italy?

Yea, I went to school the fourth grade.

Did you start when you were six years old?

Yea, six years old. That's it.

What kind of school was it? Was it a public school?

That's a public school.

It was a public school.

Yea, they give you public school but then after that when you finish that you get diploma.

Yes.

Then if you wanna go you gotta pay.

In otherwords, if you want to go past that point...

If you wanna...you know what I mean...you gotta pay for it. You gotta pay. Then things was bad. I work.

O. K. How was the private school after that. Was it a school run by priests or nuns or was it a public kind of school too?

Well, it's like public school. The city pay for that.

Oh, O. K.

Yea. You no have to pay. They give you that far. You go to fourth grade.

Uh huh.

Them days when I was young----54 years ago. I

don't know how far they go. Then, after that, the family gotta pay if you wanna go.

Yes.

You know, if you wanna continue the school.

But was the school still run by the government, by the state?

Well, the one I went was the city.

Yea, but I mean the part after the fourth grade.

Oh, no. We go private.

It was private school.

We go private.

Uh huh. Was it run by the church? Was it a church school?

Well, see my priest, my teacher was a priest when I was going to public school, yea. But he was get paid....

By the government.

By the government or the city---either one.

All right now, when you finished school---you started when you were six . You go four years. So you finished when you were ten?

When I finished I was ten years old.

Right, and you went to work in the country then on the farm.

It was on the farm...whatever I can do. They started

to break you in six, seven, eight years old. I was going to school. When I come home I have to do work a little bit on the farm. You know, whatever I could do 'cause after all we're little kids.

Now in 1915 Italy got into World War I. Right?

First World War, yea.

Yea. Was the war started when you left Italy?

No. I left...see, they give me passport March 3, 1915 and I had to leave there. The passport was only good for two months. I had to leave there May 3, 1915. If I didn't leave, can't come over no more.

Right. In otherwords, if you didn't leave before May 10...

May 10. No can't come over no more. I left May 7, 1915. May 7...one month and three days before passport was good no more.

Yea. Tell me. Why did you come to the United States?

Well, I tell you. I come over here...them days everybody was coming over and I figured I would stay a couple years.....

Uh huh.

make a few dollar and was going on back.

Uh huh.

But then the war break in and I had to go in the

war. You know.

Oh, you went in the Army?

No. I was here. If I was going back, I have to go in.

Yea, if you went back, you'd have to go in the Army.

And then I find out. I stay one year, two years.

Then forget all about Italy. I never went back no more. Then I see world make better living here, and I stay here all my life, you know. All that time I never went back to Italy never.

You never even went back for a visit?

Never went back.

Tell me something else? What made you come to the United States? Did you know anybody who was here?

Well, I had one...they call em stepbrother.

Uh huh.

And he sent for me.

He sent for you then?

He sent for me, yea.

Was he living here in Wilmington?

He was here. He come over here in 1900 I guess, and he was here to 1919. See, when I come over in 1915, we stay four years together here. Then 1919 he left and he went Long Branch, New Jersey.

I see.

And he got married there. Then we see him three or four times. I went there. He was come over here. And now... I think he's dead now because pretty old. I never hear no more news from him about four four or five years. I wrote him a letter, you know. I never got no answer back. He had nobody there.

I see.

His wife died when I was still working then about eight years ago. I went to the funeral. Then when my Nicky got married...you know....my son,

Yea.

he come out here. Then he went back. Then since that I never see him no more. I write him a couple letters but never have no answer. I think he's dead.

When you did come to the United States, you left from Naples. Right?

Yes, got a boat to Naples.

Do you remember the name of the boat?

Yea. Duke of Abruzzo.

What was it?

Duke of Abruzzo.

Oh, the Duke of Abruzzo.

Yea.

Yea, that was an Italian ship then?

Yea, Italian ship.

What was it like aboard ship when you were coming over? What was it like aboard the ship?

What was it like?

Yea. I mean the accomodations----where you slept, what you ate, and everything.

What do you mean...on the boat?

Yea, on the boat.

Oh, I come third class, you know. I had to sleep all the way down at bottom...

Uh huh.

on a couch...like one atop of the other.

Yea. What did they have? Did they have hammocks or just regular cots?

Regular cots. You know one sleep on middle, one sleep on the top.

Yea.

Not like it is now. You get a room for four. You get room. It was third class. You see, I come third class. Then is you was come second class or first class, you know, that was better. Still how it is today. You go first, that's one thing, go second---one thing, going third...that's another thing.

Yea.

Now them days the third class there was eating like, you know, five together. You had to keep your dish, your fork,

your spoon---everything. You had to go after your meal---
everything---coffee---anything you want. Today they serve
you at table. Well you got to figure when I come over I
pay 205 lire---205. It was \$41 from Naples to Wilmington.
They can't give you much that price.(laughter) Now you
pay \$300, \$400.

At least. Yea. How long did it take you to get over
here?

Well, I'll tell you. I left April 7 and we got
to New York on a Saturday because...see we stay there that
Saturday. You can't get off the boat.

Uh huh.

Saturday you can't get off the boat and I got off
on a Monday morning.

Uh huh.

And I reach here 1:00 in the morning down
Pennsylvania Railroad Station, April 2.

Uh huh.

So put about twelve days...something like that.
It took me three days just to stay in New York.

Yes. In otherwords, you left Naples on the seventh
of May.

I think I got in New York the nineteenth, something
like that.

You got there the nineteenth of May.....

The nineteenth.

and you got in Wilmington the twenty-first.

Well, then I stay three days there.

Yea. Did the boat stop anyplace from Naples.....

No.

It just came straight to New York?

It just came right through.

Did anybody meet you in New York?

Did anybody....

Did anybody meet you? Was your half brother up there waiting for you or.....

No. No. Nobody.

What....did you just have the address on a card?

That's it. When we got off the boat we had to go to the battery. I mean to pass the physical examination. It took all day.

Uh huh.

Then they bring down to station...down to railroad station.

Yes.

Then a fellow come around about 9:00. They bring us all on the train and I have a ticket in my coat---Pennsylvania Railroad. You know. I come Pennsylvania Railroad, and then we get on the train and I have a lot of friends of mine

that come from the same place. And then who was go here, who was go there, who was go there, and after all I leave by myself. I was the only one come to Delaware.

Uh huh.

When I got off down Pennsylvania Railroad Station, the conductor take me over the police....you know the railroad police station, and tell him where I had to go. Then the police took me downstairs....from upstairs take me downstairs and call a taxicab. And I went home taxicab 1:00 in the morning....see, where my stepbrother was live.

Yea. Where was your stepbrother living then?

He was living 722 West Third Street.

722 West Third Street.

Between Monroe and Madison.

Between Monroe and Madison?

Yea.

Tell me. Were there a lot of Italian people down there?

Where down?

On Seventh Street between Monroe and Madison.

No. There was Moroca Shop right across the street there. There were three houses there together on that block.

Yea.

And across the street there was negroes living then.

The negroes were living across the street?

There at Fourth and Monroe they take that addition and make all one shop there.

Uh huh.

Now I think the three houses together, they still there. You know where I lived. What's it called---Di Pace. Di Pace sister. You know the lawyer.

Yes.

The boss's name was Mike Capaldi.

Oh, the boss. Where did---you went to work at the Moroca Shop then?

No. Where I lived.

Oh. Uh huh.

You know....when I come from Italy.

Yes.

See, my stepbrother lived at the Di Pace sister.

Right. I understand that.

And that's where I live there for six months.

Now, when you first got here were you able to find a job right away when you first came over?

Oh, well I find a job. The first job I have down stone quarry.

The stone quarry?

Botford. You know---across the street from Electric Hose.

Yea. I know where Electric Hose is.

There no more now.

No more stone quarry.

I was water boy down there.

Oh, really.

Yea. They had about 150 people. I was working in the quarry....the stone quarry. Get fifteen cents an hour at that time.(laughter)

At fifteen cents an hour, huh?

Yea. That's all.

How many hours a day did you have to work there?

Well, they was working nine hours a day.

Nine hours a day?

\$1.35 a day.

Oh, and how many days a week did you work?

Oh, five days.

Five days?

Or six days. Then I quit there and I went to shipyard..

Alliance Shipyard.

Alliance Shipyard.

Yea, and I make sixteen cents an hour there.

Sixteen cents an hour. You got a raise.

Yea. I got a raise...one cents. (laughter)

I make \$8.10 a week.

What kind of work did you do at the Alliance Shipyard?

Well, I was cleanup gang.

Uh huh. Where was this shipyard?

It's on Monroe Street. You know.

On Monroe Street?

Yea.

All the way down at the end.

All the way down. You know where electric power and light building.

All the way down at the end.

Right down at the water then.

Yea.

Yes.

They close up. Then from there I quit there. Let's see. I went railroad....Pennsylvania Railroad and I work day and half there.

A day and a half?

(Laughter) It was sixteen cents an hour there. Then it was \$1.60. Then from there I went to du Pont's at Experimental Station. It was so bad out there. Make twelve dollars a week.

Uh huh.

\$12.60

\$12.60 a week?

Yea. \$2.10 an hour....I mean a day.

Yea.

Eight hours work..

Eight hours a day?

Eight hours a day.

What kind of work did you do up there?

Well, they had Powder Mill up there.

Oh, at the Powder Mill. It's on the Brandywine
then?

Yea. The Experimental Station.

Uh huh.

They had Powder Mill there. I was...I work in the
Powder Mill. I work in the yard. You know...all over. I work
about a year and a half there for them.

What was it like working there? What was it like
to work there for du Pont in those days?

Like work?

No. How was it to work?

Oh, the work was all right.

They treated you all right?

Yea. They was work in the yard. Then from the yard
I went work up box shop. Hagley yard they call it...in the
Powder Mill.

In the Hagley yards there. That's where they have
the museum now.

Yea.

The Hagley Museum, where they still have some of those
old Powder Mills.

That's it. They do no more powder up there.

No. It's just the museum now.

Yea. At that time it was Powder Mill up there.

They make a lot of powder.

And did you work up there making gun powder?

About a year and a half.

How many?

About a year and a half.

About a year and a half up there.

Were you ever working inside the grinding mills
where they ground...

The grind mill?

Yea.

No. I was...it was from here to Sixth Street.

Uh huh.

See I was working in the mill. It was white powder.

And the grind mill was from here to...I way from here to
Scott Street. Not that quite...not that far.

Yes.

But the grind mill was here.

Now.....

Then I work in Moroco Shop about twenty-three years.

And you stayed in the Moroco Shop about twenty-three
years.

When I got off at du Pont, I worked in the coal

mines in Minersville, Pennsylvania for six months.

Oh, really?

19---See I was....It was first World War.

Uh huh.

See, I work down shipyard at Pusey Jones. Then the war was over. We make about \$42 a week. You know...work Saturday, Sunday.

Yea.

It was time and a half. Then as soon as ^{war.} was was over we got cut down about \$22 a week.

Uh huh.

No more overtime. No more work Sunday...fourty hours straight, and I went to the coal mine. I quit there. I went in Minersville, Pennsylvania. I stay six months over there. Then I come back from there.

Well, how was it up there in the coal mines? How was the work up there?

How long I work?

No. How was the work?

Well, that work was pretty dangerous work.

Yes. I know it can be pretty dangerous.

You gotta go...you gotta go about four, five, six-hundred feet down.

Yea.

And when you come out, you don't know if your're

negro or white man. You know....you're all black.

Yea.

Where I was...Minersville, Pennsylvania, that days they wouldn't even allow a negro to go by there.

Now?

Because white people come out of mine, there was more black than negro was.(laughter) Anything was happen, you didn't know whether he was white or was negro.

Right. Now tell me. Were there many Italians up there working in the mines?

Oh...most Italian or Polock, Polish people..most of them.

How did you come to go up to Minersville? Did you have any friends up there?

No. A friend of mine....he had a couple of friends there.

Uh huh.

And they know them. And we went over there and stayed six months. Then I come back here and I went work. I went back Moroco Shop.

Tell me. What was it like during the First World War here? Now, when the United States got into the First World War, did they start drafting men into the Army here?

Well, most of them...they want to volunteer. Then they draft them from twenty-one to thirty-one.

Uh huh.

And they can't get to me because I was nineteen. Then I wasn't old enough. Then the second draft was from 1940 I think. They they got me. I was 1A, everything. We were ready to go. When the time we had to go...the war...you know. We don't go no place no more.

The war ended so you never left.

We never moved. If the war was last, I had to go in.

Yea.

I wait for call to go in.

What were the living conditions like when you first got here? You know...when you first came to the United States?

When I was here?

Yea. How were the living conditions? What was it like?

Well, the living conditions wasn't bad, but the money it wasn't there either.

Well, how about...like the house?

Like the cigarette...you pay ten cents a pack that time.

Uh huh. Is that so?

You go movies, you pay five cents. I go movies. I see one romance...what they call it...for about five months...cowboy. Then they say next week, next week. They always say, you know---next week they start other part. That was

old opera house on Market Street.

That was The Grand. The Grand Movie was called the opera house. /

Five cents. We pay five cents. Everything was cheap. You know---the money it was cheap too.

That's it exactly.

The best the people could make was about \$10 a week.

Well, how about the houses now. What sort of things did you have in the houses now? First of all, you didn't have a bathroom in the house. Right? You didn't have a toilet in the house in those days. Did you?

Well, nobody had a house like this.

That's it exactly. Yea.

Well somebody that have a good job, maybe they had a house pretty good but the rest they didn't have nothing on the floor. The parlor room---they had two, three bed there. You know. They put boarder there for couple dollars a month. They had to cook for them. They do everything. The houses use to get bucket of water---throw water--get a broom and wash 'em out. They had no rug. They had no carpet. Nothing those days.

In otherwords, there wasn't much furniture in the house?

No. No. No. There wasn't much.

What kind of light did they have in the house? Was it oil lamps?

Lamp? Well, they have gas.

Gas.

I find gas in the lamp.

In otherwords, when you first came here, they had gas.

Yea. When I come over--yea.

They had gas lights.

Where I lived they had gas. Even here, when I bought this house 1928 they have gas, electric here.

Uh huh.

I took the gas out myself 'cause it's too dangerous for the kids.

Yes. It is dangerous for children.

Yea. I took it out, yea.

How about the heat in the house?

The heat? They have coal stove.

They had a coal stove. Where? In the kitchen?

In the kitchen. That's all.

That's the only heat in the house?

That's all. And we had a heavy blanket on the bed and we had to heat the brick on the stove. You know.

Uh huh.

And take 'em upstairs and put 'em on the bed at

end of day. Nobody had heat at that time, the low class especially. The rich people. They all have heat.

Tell me something. What changes were caused by the First World War? Did this sort of thing change after the First World War?

Well, this start to change after First World War. Start to change a little bit. You know. Then 1921 we had a little depression again.

Yes.

People out of work---about 35 cents an hour--- couldn't get a job. Then it picked up. Didn't last long--- about a year or so. Then they pick up pretty good. Fifty cents an hour--you know, that wasn't so bad. Stuff wasn't so high in Coolidge's time.

Yes.

Then 1928 when Mr. Hoover come out---goodbye.

That was it.

It was depression.

Yes.

People even couldn't buy a job, and I was lucky. I had a job. I work all the time because I work in Moroco Shop. Sometime I no work steady, a full week. Still I had a job.

You still worked. Yea.

Then stay up there 1940, you know. Then Mr. Roosevelt come in. Mr. Roosevelt that time fix place up. You know. He

open here, open there. Send boys away---you know.

CCC Camp.

CCC Camp. You know---and help 'em out. You know---the family that had four or five boys. You know---take two out of there. Then he give 'em some money too. You know---then they start to pick up. Then when Second World War---that's when I start to work full speed. Then things got straightened out.

Now there are a couple of other things I want to ask you about. When was the first time you remember screen doors on houses? Now, when you first came to this country, they didn't have screens, did they?

They have what?

Screens. You know for screens on the door to keep the flies out.

Oh. They had screen door on the house. Not this house.

No.

Got wood.

Before World War I did they have them?

I guess they had them First World War. You know---the regular wooden screen.

Yea, but did they did have them before World War I?

Oh, yea. I think they have them.

They did have screen doors?

Some of them they have them. Some of them they had a kitchen full of flies. That's all. They had a piece of paper they hang and the fly when they come in they stick on em.

Yea. Fly Catching Paper.

That's it. Fly paper.(laughter)

Tell me something. In 1921, around 1921...

Yea.

Mussolini started to come to power in Italy. Right? Now was there any organization in this country that you knew of---the Fascist organization here that supported him?

Who?

Mussolini,

Mussolini. Oh, I didn't even know him.

What did people here think about Mussolini?

Well, they think...I think he was a pretty good man because he got rid all the black hands that was in Italy especially.

Uh huh.

You know what I mean. He was smart man. The only mistake he make was Second World War. You know---start to come to United States. Mussolini was a smart man. He fix Italy. You know before the people came over here and they go Italy, when he reach Naples, if he wasn't watching yourself, if you

had a few dollar in the pocket, you won't find no more. When he got on, you could bring the money in your hands. Nobody touched no more. He do a lot of good things. The only mistake he make....you know....

In otherwords, his big mistake was getting tied up with Hitler.

That's what I....The mistake he make...He was a pretty smart man anyhow and he do a lot of good things for Italy.

Yea.

Then he make a mistake. He start to go to United States. He went against and goodbye.

When you first came to Wilmington...when you first came to this country, where did you go to church?

Where I went to church?

Where did you go to church. Yea.

Well, I was going to St. Paul's.

St. Paul's?

And the most I like it 'cause I was close there.

Yea.

Then St. Thomas. That's where I got married down here.

Well, you started going to St. Thomas's....

St. Anthony's no was up there.

It wasn't built yet.

No. St. Thomas's was Italian.

How was it when you went to St. Paul's church?

Huh?

How was it when you went to St. Paul's? When you went to St. Paul's church...

Well, that's where I come from Italy. I lived near there.

Yea. Were there many Italians that went to St. Paul's?

Well, not too many Italians 'cause then I move up here. See, I stay six months down there.

Oh. Uh huh.

Then I move up Lincoln Street.

Ma non ci stavano asai Italiani vicino San Paolo?

(But there weren't many Italians near St. Pauls?)

No. No. No.

That's what I mean.

I went a couple times.

St. Peter's?

St. Peter's. I went over there to Eleventh and Madison, I think.

Oh, Sacred Heart. Sacred Heart.

Yea.

Could you go to any mass that you wanted to go to?

What?

Could you go to any mass....

Oh, yea. Even I was go in the middle of week sometime. You know. Fast day before I was going to work, I was going to mass.

Tell me. What did you think of Father Tucker when he first came into this area? What kind of a man was he?

He was good man. He do a lot of work up there.... everything. Can't do no better than that. He was help a lot of people.

Yea.

Lot of people was down. They go over there. He help 'em out all he can.

He helped a lot of people. He did help a lot of people.

He did help a lot of people.

Would you say he did more probably for the Italians in Wilmington than anybody else had done for them before?

I think, yea, he done more for the Italian people than any other priest done. You know, Father Tucker.

Yea. Now he founded St. Anthony's parish. Right? He founded St. Anthony's? He started it?

Yea. I believe this do pretty good....Father Roberts. *[Handwritten: Robert B. Roberts? (1870)]*

He's done a lot of work.

He has done a lot of work. He's expanded on it a great deal.

He's nice too.

Uh huh.

O. K., now when Italy first got into World War I and the United States got in, we were on the same side.

Yea. Was on same side.

Even though we felt bad about war in general, still it wasn't too bad because we were on the same side. Now when World War II started, we were on different sides.

That's it. Yea. They was on different sides.

What did you think of that? How did you feel about that?

I figured they make a mistake.

Yea. I know, but...

They ought to go on our side.

Yea, but still you knew that you had sons who went into the Army and you knew that they might have to go to Italy. Now, did you have any relatives left in Italy? Any brothers or nephews?

Well, that's what was bad. You know, they have to shoot one or the other.

Yea. This is it. You felt pretty bad about it.

That's it. Because you never know. Maybe I had a brother there. My son had to go there...the cousin. You know. 'Cause I had a nephew there.

Yes.

My son was in war. Maybe they'd shoot....

Yea, shoot their own cousin.

That's it.

So this caused a lot of heartache really.

Yes. All that's hard feeling. What you gonna do.

That's government....government. You can't stop that. That's same way was there....same way was here.

Yea.

One fight against the other.

That's right. You were in the United States when prohibition started? Right?

Yea.

What year did prohibition start? Do you remember?

I think 1917.

1917.

Yea. When the war started...when the United States went into the war.

Did you notice any big changes because of prohibition?

Well, there was a lot of change because they put a lot of people to work. You know what I mean.

Put a lot of people out of work?

Then..

Yea.

Then when the prohibition, you know...

When it was lifted.

Yea. They put a lot of people out of work.

Yea.

'Cause close brewery, close this, close that.

Yes. So it caused a problem. I suppose in those days if somebody wanted a drink he had to go to a bootlegger.

A bootlegger. A lot of bootlegger make money then.

Yea.

A lot of bootlegger went in jail too.(laughter)

Yea. I'm sure of that. O. K., now...

See the big one make lock up the little one. That's what they wanna do.

Is that what happened?

The big bootletter...

Yea.

wants to grab everything and he pay the graft, you know.

Uh huh.

The big one could afford to pay graft.

The big one could afford to pay graft but the little one...he ain't started yet. He was too weeks in the business. Lock him up. Go in jail 'cause he can't pay the graft. They don't give him a chance to make it.

Were there many big bootleggers around?

Era una camorra la

Uh huh. All right, now when Roosevelt came in, of course there were a lot of changes. Right?

Yea.

He tried to help.

Oh, you never find another man like him, I believe. He's the one who put United States on her feet.

Yea.

He stopped that gang who was gonna bankrupt everything. The house...people was losing their house and they took it over. Then they give you chance, you know, 'cause then they want \$1000 to pay mortgage and men wants to withdraw his mortgage. Go here, go there...borrow \$1000 to pay that man off so nobody can get noplace.

Right, nobody....

They had. Just they do that.

Uh huh.

The bank had the money. Where that money was? They just...just tried to put the working man out altogether. Then Mr. Roosevelt took it over. They pay you off and sell the house and give you chance to pay so much.

In otherwords, he'd pay off the ones who were holding the mortgage, the mortgage holders.

That's it.

He'd pay the morgage and then you owed the government the money.

That's it. You pay the government. Then give you chance---so many years to pay him off. See and he save a lot of people 'cause a lot of people lost house before...

Yes.

When it got bad, he stopped everything. He fix everything up 'cause a lot of people was losing their house for \$500. They took your house for \$500. (The bank would foreclose and take their house even though they had paid thousands)

Uh huh.

Come see that man. Lend me \$500. I got to finish my mortgage. I ain't got em. Go to other man. I ain't got 'em. Then they would take your house. Then the poor people-- God knows how hard they had to work to buy a little house. Then for \$500, \$1000 they had to lose that. Mr. Roosevelt stop everything. He took it over. Government took it over. Then they give you a chance to pay so much money and save to keep it.

If you were to look back after all the years you've been in the United States, what would you say was probably one of the biggest changes that occurred here? If you looked back---you came here in 1915...

Yea.

O. K., now what would you say was one of the biggest

changes that happened here in the United States?

The biggest change, especially with the working people...a lot of them. Well some of them they been like that all the time. They make good life, you know. When I come...cause today you got everything in the house. You got the television. You got stereo. You got nice parlor set. You got washing machine. You got everything today, but that day you had nothing. You got regrigerator. People work. Make pretty good money and eat what they want. That day you can't buy that much stuff. You can't eat three-quarters of the things cause money wasn't there to buy. There a lot of change from day to night from when I come over to today.

Have you ever regretted coming to the United States? Were you ever sorry you came to the United States...wished you stayed in Italy.

No. No. No. No. If I was sorry I was come here I would have gone back.(laughter)

Then you never wanted to go back to Italy?

No. Well I like go back for trip, you know, for visit, not to stay there.

Uh huh. All right. Is there anything else you'd like to add to what we've already talked about?

What?

Is there anything else you'd like to say about the things you've already talked about?

I guess we talk pretty good.

O. K. then.