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TRANSCRIBED INTERVIEW

Luigi Marcozzi

126 W. 8th Street

New Castle, Delaware

Interviewed by
Francis J. Fierro
March 25, 1968

Transcribed by
Irene H. Long
September, 1969

See, this thing is very, very sensitive.

Now you talk a little bit louder cause a I want a understand if you ask any questions. I'm not a going to make a long.

O.K. Fine. No, you make them as long as you want.

(TAPE OFF AND ON)

All right Mr. Marcozzi, a where were you born?

I was born in a Teramo, Abruzzi, Italy.

In Teramo?

Yes.

Teramo is the name of a province in Abruzzi, right?

Province in a.....

What was the name of the town where you were born?

Teramo..

The name of the town was Teramo?

Teramo, yes.

Teramo in the province of Teramo?

Provincia, provincia of Teramo, yes.

Uh huh. How about the town, the a little a town where you were born? A.... do you remember the name of the little town?

You mean a town where I was born?

Yes.

A..... you can say I was a born in a Miana.

Miana?

Miana, yes, but 'stead we call it Teramo.

Oh, I see.

Province of Teramo.

O.K. What year were you born?

A.... October 28th, 18....91.

1891, October 28?

Uh huh.

Now, a, when you were in Italy as a little boy, did you go to school?

Yes sir.

Now, how old were you when you started school?

How old when, how old I.....I was bout twelve years old.

About twelve when you started school?

Uh huh, uh huh.

And how many years.....

I just a start by mistake. My uncle.....

O.K.....

Told me to a go to school. I was a very good.

Uh huh. Why did your uncle want you to go to school?

Well, a..... you know, them days it was in this country, too, the United States of America, a..... like farmers, you know, very few go to school.

Uh huh. Is that what you were, a farmer in Italy?

What's that?

Were you a farmer in Italy?

Yeh, I was farmer but you see, we had pretty hard luck. My mother die, I was nine years old and then I was a little over sixteen when my father die.

Oh my, that was tough luck. So you started school when you were twelve years?

Uh.

How long did you go to school?

A.... in Italy?

Yes.

I didn't go long. I went about a I can say bout a three years.

Three years?

Uh huh.

Well, this.....

But in that three years I study all the time.

Uh huh. O.K. Now when you started school then a this was around 1903 or 19 - 4, right?

Well, I don't remember just a date but I think that's about a.....

That's, that's about right. Now a.... when you were not going to school what did you do, work on the farm?

Work on a farm, yeh.

Who did the farm belong to?

I a forgot the name of the a....a.... the owner.

But it didn't belong to your father or your uncle?

Oh, we had some land of our own but it wasn't enough to..... No, there was twelve in the family.

Twelve? Really?

There was ten boy and two si- girl.

Ten boys and two girls?

Uh huh.

And did you all work the land?

Yes sir.

Now a....a... you say you went to school when you were twelve. The school you went to, was it a public school or was it a private school or a church school?

I don't quite a remember this a but we only had but a one school over there. No such a thing a as a..... parochial school or anything like that.

Well, was it a public school then?

Public school but they teach.....oh.... like a we say a.... how you say ----- but they teach that bout the a existence God, you know a.....

They did teach you bout the existence of God but.....

Yeh, yeh, things like that. Of course, nobody was against anything like that, like a, like a got in United States of America.

Uh huh. All right now, when you completed your schooling, when you finished in three years of schooling that you a, a, attended, what did you do then? After you finished school, you went to school for three years till you were fifteen years old about.

Well, a, a, I was work on farm.

Uh huh.

And still I read the books.

I see.

Italian books, mostly grammar books.

In other words.....

And because I had to work on a farm, you know, when my father die and my two borther, the oldest was in United States of America.

Uh huh.

And a.... I study these books and course I had to work there in the morning.

Right.

I read in the evening. When I, I wasn't quite eighteen when I come over in this country.

Oh, so you were almost eighteen years old when you came here?

Huh?

You were almost eighteen years old when you came to the United States?

That's right.

Now, you were working on a farm when you came to the United States, right? In other words in Italy, when you left Italy, you were working as a farmer?

A.... in Italy, yes sir.

O.K. Why did you decide to come to the United States?

Well, a, I did not come in a... in a United States because - in other words I was poor. No! I was not poor. We work and eat like a... any other people in this country at the time. But I come in this country because a when you lose a father and you, you ain't got no mother and my two oldest a brother were here, so we come here. I come here to ...a... stay with them.

When you came here, did your other brothers and sister also come?

You mean a my a two brother?

Well, no, you said you had your two older brothers here in this country?

Yes sir.

You were back in Italy with your other brothers and sisters, right?

Yeh.

Now, when you came over here, did your other brothers and sisters come at the same time that you did?

One sister, when, one a we left ...a... I left a one

sister and one my youngest brother and youngest sister in Italy.

I see.

And a Milia and the oldest sister come here together.

I see. Now, who did your younger brother and sister stay with, your uncle? (Hesitation) The ones that you left in Italy, your brother and sister, did they stay with your uncle?

Stay with my uncle, yeh, ----- father.

I see. Now when you left Italy, where did you catch the boat, in Naples?

In a Naples.

How did you get to Naples from Teramo, on the train?

On, on the train.

Uh huh. Now when you got to Naples was the train - I'm sorry - when you got to Naples was the ship in the port waiting for you?

Yes sir.

Did you go right a directly aboard?

Well, that's about a couple days in Naples.

Oh, you had to wait a couple days?

Yeh, you had to go through an examination.

Uh huh.

And then, of course, a you had to wait because it takes time to load it. Sometimes it takes two, three days to load....a... the ship, you know, with merchandise that and of course you wait after you get on board. Then you go.

Yes. Did a, a, do you remember what the name of the ship was on which you came?

I don't.

Was it an Italian ship?

Yes, yes, it was an Italian ship.

It was an Italian.....

It was an Italian name, but a..... I guess it was belong to Italy. I don't know.

O.K. How long did it take to get to the United States?

Thirteen days.

Thirteen? Did it stop anywhere along the way?

I think it a stopped in a Sicily.

In Sicily?

I think it did but I don't remember very good.

I see.

But I think it did and then it went direct to New York.

It didn't stop in Gibraltar, did it?

No.

It went directly to New York?

Directly to New York, yeh.

When you got off the ship in New York, what happened then?

When I got off in a, in a ship in New York....a....you know.... in a way I was happy, in a way I was stranger.

Uh huh.

But there was lot of people. I think there was over three, four hundred in the boat which was a lot of people to wait. And a.... when me, when I and my sister come out, there was a lot of people there that I know. And one man come in and ask me question. I don't understand, know what they mean. This man a put a hand in my pocket and pull all the money I had.

Uh huh.

And a they took one dollar and they put the rest of the money back in my pocket. And a tap a me on my back and he give me

enough to eat for the next a two weeks for me and my sister.

He gave you enough to eat to last for two weeks?

Two weeks, yes. Bologna, bread, a, everything in there.

Uh huh.

Yeh, now them days a... the United States of Americ' we can no a feel like a that today. The society was good people but a today the society is, is criminal. To take as criminal and the criminal take a place of a society. All right now, we say now I shouldn't say this, but in a line I want to explain to you the difference them days and it is today. You can go any place here that I find in New Castle. All a my days a United States of America, all the people I find were gentle people - gentlemen, gentle women. Nobody ever try to mistreat me but still there was a lack of understanding. But when we used to, you know, this use finger, show what you wanted.....

Yes, yes.

And you show 'em with finger like this, but a far as a be safe in the street or home, you were safe!

Now, you said that a.....

Now, today, now I just a come in now today - if a society was to pay a the expense send a son or a daughter to a university or a high school of United States of Americ', this student go to the university or a school not to get an education, they go there to raise a heck and they try to teach the teacher all their idea. And that kind of a people today which a society has to support in the United States of Americ' all over the a fifty states, those kind of a people which we pay, the workin' class people are pay, I think that society's good people and some of the people's forced to pay this. Now those people, they ain't got no responsi-

bility. They walk the street without paying any tax. Walkin' good society along without paying any, any tax at all and then when they get in trouble - which they ask for the trouble - we got our police officer, which a it serve their duty and which a we pay them to do their duty - and when they a call out to dis... dis... dist.... disturb, you know, the ----- people, try to quiet them down if a these a hobos, which I call them hobos and a criminal, they pick up a brick or shoot at a police officer, the man who do that, the hobo who do that, he's a hero! But if a police officer a act according to the law, try to lock him up and take him before the, the court of the law and a they try to a....a... to rake these a hobos up, and when the a...a... the police try to force these people then when they go to court if a the police officer defend himself, the police officer a become a criminal in the court - hear that! - a criminal in the court, and the criminal they treat as a police officer.

Yes.

Because a they got a gang back, you know, put the money like that. So therefore's there's a big difference a today than a was them a day when I a come a here. It was sixty some, fifty some years ago.

O.K. Now in other words.....

Now, now, a just a minute. When I a come in this a country September four a nineteen hundred and ten, that year I had to pay a income tax. It was a lower law with a twenty-five cents. Was twenty-five cents. Course was a money them a day. I didn't complaint to pay but these people today no pay no tax.

Uh huh.

They, they go, go all over the place. Only thing a.... the way that they pay most people, take from, take from only the

workin' class of people and the society, and, and give to these a criminals. These criminals buy a the guns and bullets to kill the law abidin' citizens.

Yes.

And the trouble when we, when, when the man that runs office, you think the man is good, but when he get a job every dollar ----- a Washington. When they go in there, the first thing they do, they, they raise little money to go to place. I'm, I'm not criticizing anybody. This -I a, I a just telling what's going on. Then the first thing they do, they raise a bout a thousand dollar their ownself and pay to judge and then when they appoint a judge, the majority belongs to the gang. I wouldn't say criminal, but you, you can understand what I mean. And when a, when the man takin' before the judge, the judge is the lawmaker. They make a law. No go by the laws a make to the protect of society of the right of the people, the taxpayer which, which a pays to the judge, which a pays to everybody.

Uh huh. Well, you see..... you're probably right. Now, a, going back to when you first came here, a how were you received when you landed? From what you told me, you were received quite nicely. You didn't understand but yet they gave you food when you got off the boat. You said they gave you enough to last you for a couple of weeks?

Couple weeks.

Now.....

That was, that was a between me and my sister - one dollar.

Yes, now you had two brothers in this country at that time. Where were they?

Right here in New Castle.

They were here in New Castle?

Uh huh.

Did they meet you in New York?

No sir. They meet me right here in New Castle station.

Really,a.....

Seven o'clock in the morning.

Really? Now you got on a train in a New York?

I got on a train and a, we got on the train in New York and we got off - I think it was West Philadelphia. I don't know whether it was West Philly or not a but according to the way they move things a today, I think it was West Philadelphia.

Uh huh.

That's a where we get a off. I, I a don't know which way the trains run, but anyway then in the morning we got on another train and we came in New Castle seven o'clock a that morning. And my brother came in the train and got us out.

How did you know a what train to get?

Huh?

How did you know what train to get?

Well, a, I don't know what train to get but the good people of America them days which we have a few today, they put a number on us.

Uh huh.

And according to that number we had on us, the conductor or the station master or some fellow in the station know what train what we get. We didn't ----- for the train.

Oh, I see. All right now, I.....

You ----- it was like when you ship something, you

know, you put..... (Laughs).

You write the address on it.

That's right. But there was nothing wrong.

Uh huh.

Nothing, nobody bother us and everybody try to do good except the trouble was in a understanding.

Now, when your brother came to pick you and your sister up, where did he take you? Right into a - he took you into New Castle? This is where you came to New Castle. Uh, with whom were you staying then?

What's that?

With whom did you stay?

Which a home?

In whose house did you stay?

Well, a, my two, my two a, two brothers.

Oh, they had a house here?

They had a house ready because a the first was a board with some, some a.----- . Then they rent the house because we were me and my sister was coming. They rent that house and was everything ready.

Oh well, then you had your own house to live in here when you first came here?

Uh huh.

Now, with whom did your brothers work? Where did your brothers work?

Pennsylvania Railroad.

Oh, they both worked on the railroad? And did they get you a job right away?

Well, I got, I got a job I think forty days after I land,

I came a New Castle but not on the railroad.

Oh really? Where did you get a job?

Well, it was a manufacture plant by the name of Blucher(?).
Now they change him into a defense plant up here but now they got
different name on it. I went up there and there was a few Italian
workin' there. All kind, you know, Pollack - Polish people and so
on and a I went there because I wanted to work and my foreman he
was, his name was a James a James..... I tell you it was James.....
well, a, I a, I got it in my mind but you know.

Yeh, I know how it is. You got it all on the tip of
your tongue.

And I can't get it out.

Uh huh.

Was a very good, but it was a matter of understand. So
the job that he give me this was second day. He give me shevel to
go in the place where they dry the -----.

Where they dried what?

You understand, you know what -----, you know
where they make steel, you know.

Where they make steel?

Where they put them in the oven to dry them out in the
night and pull 'em out in the morning and put them in place.

What's that, steel?

Yeh, then they call it "steel-in" (?).

Oh, they're making the molds.

Yeh.

Uh huh.

They a, they give shovel to go there and clean up. Was
a dust in there, and when I stick a shovel under this a dust, boil up

like a, you know, lot of heat under there.

Uh huh.

And this was in September. Cut my head off, my hair. A... I had plenty of hair them days, you know but....(Chuckles) . So was a hot in there, but I keep on a work, you know, with the shovel and I had to go bout ten a twelve a feet to go out to the hopper to put 'em in the bucket. So James McHugh...a... that was, see, that's a boy - Jimmy McHugh and a he come out and talk to me. I don't know what he's talkin' about and he talk and after awhile he went a like this to me. See, and I say, "Uh uh, he's going to fire me." That's a what I say to myself. So he go, took me outside. And went a like a this. That means a ten a minutes.

He put his hand up a twice in front of you in other words in order - ten fingers, ten minutes.

That means for me to stay ten minutes outside to get a little fresh air.

Yes.

Then you a go back and work ten minutes and go out again.

Uh huh.

So he took me out and he brought me back.

Because it was so hot outside of that.

Oh man, it was hot in there. But see, they understood and he a.....

Yes.

But, you know, I don't understand what he says. So next a day, next a four days I think, it was pay day.

Yes.

So he, he came round and ask me what was my number.

I had number, you know. And a my brother told a me my number was twenty-one. Told me how to say, but I couldn't say right, you see for him to understand. So he went down and level up the sand on the floor. We call them -----, you know where we -----, and he make a sign on there for me to write the number. So I put twenty-one on there. So he give me my ticket and tap me on my back and left. Very good people, no complaint at all.

Uh huh. They treated you real well?

Hm?

They treated you very well?

They could not a treat me better.

How long did you work there?

Three years.

What did they pay you there when you started?

I starteda... fifteen cents.

Now this was in what year? What year was this?

Nineteen hundred and ten.

1910 you were making fifteen cents an hour?

Fifteen cents an hour and the old a people told a me

I was lucky.

Really?

Because a they start down there six cents, eight cents, and ten cents and then it went, went up to twelve, then a fifteen, and they, they thought it was big money - which it was them days.

Yeh, how many hours a day did you work?

Ten.

Ten hours. How many days a week?

Six.

Did you work ten hours every day?

Every day. Sometime we make overtime.

Now when, when you worked overtime did they still pay you straight time?

Some, some time, you know, between the three years, -----,-----. I work four, five day.

Uh huh.

Yeh, but a, you know, them days when the people, mostly the foreigner and the people of this country here, when you go to job, you go to job to work. You could not, we was not allowed to make cigarette.

Uh huh.

Smoke cigarette. You, you had to work.

Yes.

Not like a mule, but, you know, you had to know you were on the job.

Well, you had.....

And that was one another of us was willing to do. So one day down there on a Saturday night, they was pretty busy. And they had to, they had to cut mold. I, I don't know whether you understand.....when.....

When you cut the edge of the mold?

Yes, cut 'em off. And there was a lot of stuff in there. And Mr. Bragle (?), he just come from Scranton, Pennsylvania on the train here in the morning and had the horse a ready to take them up there. So he told a the foreman a.....Jim McHugh, he had a how (?) pick out. So that Saturday we work a half a day. Man, it was hot! So Mr. McHugh, our boss, came to us, me and a fellow named Dominic - he dead now, if we want to work overtime and clean that place and take 'em up with the elevator. So next day it, it was -----, you

know. So we went there and man, we start to work and put it on wheelbarrow and put 'em on elevator, take off there. And we want a get done so we want a go down a river. It was close to river down there, you know. So we can a play a little down there.

Uh huh.

So we got done. Everything's a done. We sit down a little bit and clean that place off ----- first though, you know. Mr. B-----, the one who owns the a plant, "Hey boys, what you doing in there?" And I was shocked (?) out and I was pulling everybody gets a break, you know. O.K. we fired now. "What a you done? O.K., go on home." So we, we went a, a down to where we got the tick' you know. Everybody had their own tickets. To put a tick' in card you mark them like - you go off. So we do that. So he give us fifty cents a piece. He give me fifty cents and he give Dominic fifty cents.

Uh huh.

So we said, "Well, we done. Got to look for another job Monday." This was on a Saturday. So a Monday morning when we go back to work, Mr. James McHugh told us that was good job we did. But he didn't - we told him, you know, that a, that a Mr. a.B----- come he goin' to fire us. So he was goin' work on the floor, gettin' ready to make, pick some ore, you know. So we can pur a pot of steel in. So that a Mr. B----- came. Told Mr. Jim McHugh - well, we don't know what he told him. Something like that he's..... time now we a going to get a fired. So he's come a to us and say we did good job. And we find out he give us four hours overtime. That's a why he didn't want us to mark it in the tickets.

Oh really? Uh huh.

Give us four hours overtime on there. That means sixty

cents.

Yes, well, that was very nice of him.

And the reason he give us that because he figure that the a work we did would a take us four hours or six more hours to do it and we did it quicker. He was watchin' us but we did not know that. See the point?

Yes, I see.

He didn't want us to lay down there. He want a to go home and not mark the ticket because he was goin' to mark the tickets for us and give us four hours overtime. Wouldn't you say it's good people?

Yes, I would. I, I would say he was a very fine man.

That's right.

Now you worked there three years. A when you started working there, you were making fifteen cents an hour?

Right.

Were you still making fifteen cents an hour when you left?

A...a... within the three year?

Yes.

No, I was well...a.... I was young man and I could talk a better then than a I can now. I learned good. They put me in what they call "dry cell" and give me twenty-five cents an hour.

Uh huh.

And of course, we didn't a work every day then. But a it was a enough. But then they give me special job on Saturday to clean up the crane, you know, on top and everything like that. But then on a July 6, nineteen hundred and a fifteen, I quit. And I went, I went on a Pennsylvania Railroad for fifteen cents an hour.

Well, why did you do that?

Because I don't like a inside work. Too much a dust.

Yes.

I was a, I was a raised to work outside on the farm and thing like that. So I like outside work. So I went to work for Pennsylvania Railroad July sixth, nineteen hundred and fifteen. And that's all. I stood there till I retire November twenty-eight, nineteen a fifty-eight.

A how was it a when you first a went to work for the railroad? What were the conditions like?

Well, the conditions on the work was to a understand the job but I soon caught on.

Uh huh.. But were the - what did the job consist of?

Well, a..... pick and shovel, hammer. crowbar, fork.

What was it doing then, just setting ties and laying rails?

Yeh, a.....a... raisin' ties up with a pick underneath, you know, rail all kind of work like that. But next a six months I was a making track watchman. Got him in inspecting track but a fifteen months after I was assistant tracks foreman.

Uh huh.

----- are you but least it was what I like because I obey my a foreman - the name was Jospheh Carter over New Castle; he's dead now - and a when I, when we - I say we now because all of us - when we go there, we go there to work.

Tell me.....

Not to kill, see?

Yes, a, now.....

But to do, we a, we understood what, what we had to do

ten hour and a....a....today I can get ten of these hobos around on the corner which you don't have to go to street(?) because the next a day they no have a to go to work and somebody feed them. I a, I could a, I could a takin' em today on a railroad and give 'em a that a twelve foot - twelve pound hammer and drive 'em spike on a, on a oak, wood and they, and they (Chuckles) would a go - be out of there in a half hour. They wouldn't be able to do it. That's right.

Yes. A.....on the track crews were there mostly all Italians or were they mixed?

Mixed up.

A..... what kind of people did you find on the track crew besides Italians and I guess there was some.....

Well, there was few Irish people, some colored people.

How did they treat you as an Italian? How did they treat you as an Italian?

A..... who you mean, the people here?

The other people that you worked with, yes.

Couldn't a, I couldn't a - you could not expect a to be treated any better than they a treat me.

Did they.....

But you have to pay back.

Uh huh.

You had, you had to be gentleman to be treated gentleman.

Did they ever call.....

But today you have to be criminal to be treated right.

Yes, did they ever call you names of any kind? Did anybody ever call you names of any sort when you were there? No?

No, I can say it, it was hard to call my own name. They generally call you a Dominic them day or, or John. That's - they thought all Italian that's all the, that's all the name they had

Dominic or John (Chuckles).

And that's what they called all the O.K.

But they didn't go long because the very next word
why ----- (?)

Now, where you were living, were there mostly all
Italians around the area where you lived? You lived in New Castle
here?

Yes.

Were they mostly all Italians where you were living?

Do you mean in a, in the a community?

Yes.

No, mixed up - mostly Italians.

In other words in the immediate area.....

They mixed up with Irish.

I see.

Was very few colored people in a, in a corner. I
mean in a -----.

O.K.

No trouble. Never had any trouble with anybody. I'm
not bragging.

Uh huh.

All them day I been in New Castle I never had to call
the police and nobody had to call the police for me.

O.K. now, a in 1915 World War One had started in Europe.

What's that?

In 1915 the First World War.

Uh huh.

Was going on in Europe.

Yeh.

Italy was fighting Germany now.

That's right.

A.... France and England were.....

Yeh, I know.

How did that affect you over here?

Didn't affect a me at all. Citizen of the United States give a me - I was a, I was a now a citizen, United States citizen then, you know. They send a me the questionnaire. I fill out the questions, they come back, the post a, post a and class, class five, I think it was. That's all I - that's all.

Were you ever drafted into the army?

No sir.

You never went into the army at all?

No sir.

O.K. Now, a.... what was your life like here in those early days? Now certainly you were a young man, you enjoyed life I'm sure. Did you belong to any social clubs of any sort or any political clubs?

Never did. Somebody tried to put me in because we a had a men in a Wilmington. I wouldn't name 'ema.... he get those Polish people - mostly the Italian people. He was an Italian doctor. I'm not going to name him. Soon, soon's he know that the a Italians came from Italy, who's going to come, he was wait, he was waiting for them. He take a 'em in and take 'em to a Wilmington court and give you citizen paper - next a day. He, he - the same man - a come back and give you envelope with a ballot inside and you put the name so you didn't know who's you was voting for, but not a, not a my cousin, neither my brother.

You.....

They no become a United States citizen and I know..

Uh huh.

And when I became United States citizen, I remember. See, I had, I had the course on the Pennsylvania Railroad and I 'stand pretty good. And when I process my citizen paper - I forgot what year it was - and you was supposed to go to school. So I did go to school over here, but a not a within two years. I just had to wait two years, you know, after you make an application.

Uh huh.

So.... so the judge a his a name was a.... I forgot now - a famous judge in Wilmington, sent a me the ----- card, the card to go there on a Monday to get a exam to get United States paper. So Miss Bruetta (?), I don't know whether you heard about that or not - he was teacher. So a that Sunday night I went a to Wilmington to see what she was a teaching his a people. There was school in there. The Italians, all kind of nationality and she was asking question. So I show her my card that I had from the court. "You," and she told me not go. "You cannot get the papers because you did not go to school." But I says myself, "My God, the questions you ask them people, I a, I a know already my heart." And a so I went. So we went in there and course I took a witness....to a.... showed me here two year. So when the judge call me, and Miss Bruett sat right along side the judge at the table - that's a Miss Bruett, that schoolteacher, you know. Cause she was sit there and she look at me and a.... I think she had a talk with a, with a the clerk in the court about a me, you know, I didn't go to school. So the clerk started to ask a me, ask a me thirteen questions. Soon's I, soon's I ----- started walking through the court. Soon's he started to ask 'em, I answer 'em.

I answer 'em. The last a question he ask me try to, try to confuse a me. He says, "Where all this a big taxation," - he didn't say tax, taxation - "start?" And all like that and how. Now when he start that I say, "House of Representatives." I - he says, "Why?" "Because.....a.....supposed to be close to the people and learn more what the people going -----." He look at the judge and the judge say, "If everybody would a pass a examination like a this boy did, we, we no be here long."

Uh huh. That's good. So you got your citizenship papers then?

Ah.....been here, I forgot the year but been a long time ago.

Yeh, uh huh. All right now, what church did you go to in those days?

What's that?

What church?

Catholic church!

O.K. Where? Which one?

New Castle. St. Peter.

St. Peter's here in New Castle? Did you ever go to church in Wilmington?

A..... I went a church in Wilmington them days because at the first, you know, was Italian priest, Italian - couldn't talk Italian in a St. Peter.

In Wilmington?

I went there to Confession.

St. Peter's?

But I went to Masses down here. Course I went to Wilmington for funeral, like that. That's all. I went to church

down here. I go now every morning. Sometime I miss like a that.

When a you used to go to church in Wilmington, St. Peter's, who was the priest who spoke Italian?

I forgot, I forgot the name. In fact I don't know the name I know there was two, three in there who could talk Italian.

Oh?

I don't know whether, I don't know whether was Italian or was not. But then come Father - the one who built St. Anthony's Church. What's his

Tucker.

Father Tuckers, that's a right. But then we had a lot of priests here by name of Father Campbell and a he study Italian and he understood a pretty good.

Where's that, here in New Castle?

New Castle, cause those days noa...

Yeh,a.... well, you always went to Mass here in New Castle. You never went to church here in Wilmington.....except as you say for funerals or.....

Funerals and a..... no, I didn't have to go because.....

Right.

We got church right down here on a Fifth Street.

O.K. Did a were there any church sponsored organizations here that you belong to like a Holy Name Society or anything like that?

What's that?

Were there any church sponsored a societies like the Holy Name in those days?

Yeh, Holy Name Society. I didn't belong but my brother did.

Your brother belonged to it then?

Yeh.

But you never did?

Never did, no.

They let Italians belong to it then?

At that time?

Yes.

Very few because they didn't understand but everyone pretty near everybody, but here in New Castle have a my brother, one my brother, and another fellow was a good Catholic. And the people who came to New Castle went to church, but the people, the Italian population outside like a Wilmington, Baltimore, and....., very few went to church because a they didn't understand and some, you know, like that. But here New Castle most everyone who came here in New Castle went to church.

Do you know anything about a how the people of Wilmington were treated in Catholic Churches in Wilmington? Do you know how the people in Wilmington, before St. Anthony's Church was built, do you know how the Catholics, the Italian Catholics were treated?

By....a.... I know that very few Italians went to Mass in Wilmington any more and a still, still a everybody don't.

Yes, I know but wasn't it true that a for a time that St. Peter's Church in Wilmington the only Mass that the Italians could go to on Sunday was the nine o'clock Mass?

I never heard that.

You never heard of that?

No.

O.K. Uh, what a effect, what effect would you say that Father Tucker had on the Italians in Wilmington? What effect would

would you say that he had on them?

Well....a... first he a..... he's responsible to call mostly the old Italians to go back where we belong in the church. (Pause) See now, most these Italians come not a New Castle but a.... outside a.... around Holly Oak. I was work with them on the track, foreman.

Uh huh.

Those Italians work with me on my gang on the track through the week Monday till Saturday don't go to garden. On a Sunday morning, go work in the garden. Now those Irish people, or Christian people, I can say, they, they thought that a in Italy, people was work on a land on Sunday, which we never did, never did except if was a storm, you had the hay out, you know, you go get 'em or wheat or things like that. But never, never on land, but they did. On Sunday they, they didn't go to church. They say was Catholic but I call them, "big-headed Catholic." They didn't, they didn't go, but if they came in New Castle, they had to go. They ask you, "When you going?" Say, "I'm going to Mass." "Are you a still a going to Mass?" "Oh, yeh." "What's the matter?" They say, somebody, you know.

O.K. Now, a what changes did you notice that a took place in your life, you know, the things that affected you during World War One? What changes can you remember?

You mean a effect a me?

Yes, well, what changes in life? How did things change altogether?

No, no, no change.

You didn't feel there were any changes?

No, no, no different except there was a more a,

work.

There was more work?

More jobs, yeh.

Were there....

A spend a more money.

And the money was better, right?

And it was a little bit better, yeh.

Were there any other changes?

Not a, not, not to me, no not.....

How about after the war?

Well a, after the war, now have to go to politics.

We have fel-, we have fellow, he was Director-General of the Railroads of United States, the name of William McAdoo. He was a the son-in-law of Woodrow Wilson.

Uh huh.

You know, Woodrow, he was President of United States.

Uh huh.

And a between a him and ----- the governor of New York, they fought in the convention. So neither one got the nomination for President. But they went, they went and get what they call a "Black Horse." They got fellow by name of Cox(?) I think his name was and that cause Mr. Harding to be elect'.

Uh huh.

Mr. Harding die cause the reason he die because his party. put him in trouble. They claim he was in poker game and put a million dollars in there and make him win because they, they claim, I don't know whether it's true or not, but that's what the a paper says. They show what they call "Teapot Dome." Do you know that?

Yes.

Under Hardy.

The Teapot Dome Scandal.

Then he die and Mr. Coolidge, his a.... Vice-President, became President.

O.K. and what happened.....

That was in 1924. Then..... come back again and he was nominated in nineteen hundred and twenty-eight and Hoover..... so Hoover win and then ----- got 'em on television - not television, radio them days. And he told us, "We lost, the Democratic lost the election and Republican win." Says, "Mr. Hoover wins, but remember Mr. Hoover's not President of the Republican Party. He's President of the United States of America. He's a my President and your President and we have to respect him." That's what he say.

All right now, how did Prohibition affect you? How did Prohibition effect ...a....

Not a bit. I didn't a, I didn't a buy a whiskey, I didn't a sell whiskey, so it didn't a bother me at all.

Did you drink at all, any wine or anything?

Well, yeh. We make some, it's a, we made a wine out of, out of you call it raisins, you know, dry grapes.

Yes.

We make a wine. Nobody ever bother us.

Uh huh.

Never sold any. We never buy any.

You just made it for yourself, really, your own consumption. Yes...a...when a, after Hoover got into office, the Depression started.

What's that?

Wh- after Hoover got into office,

Yeh.

The Depression started.

Depression started.

Yes.

There was a bunch of thieves.

What could you tell me about that period of time?

What can I tell you?

Yes.

Ha! Ha! What can I tell you when I remember what I read in the paper or not but a somebody, you know, big stockholder a..... the.... the market went broke. Somebody stole (?) the money, I don't know who, and the people started. Their, their children, they kill themselves and a was a Depression. But a thank a God not for me because I work a pretty near every day, day here and day on, on the railroad and I make a enough money to a keep a my family and a thank a God here in this house and you can ask my wife, every day somebody come here for sandwich. No go to the other house, come here. Why? Why? "Gus send me." So one a, one Sunday morning we run out a bread and there was in a hot a July, you know. I thought I'd stop in the garden - I still had garden, you know. And a my wife said, "I ain't got nothing all the bologna's gone. All the meat's gone. You tell them" - was seven of them- "I put on sweet peppers and tomatoes. I cook 'em lasagne and you go buy some bread." So I went out and I told them what it was. Say "Anything, we hungry." Was seven white people. So (Chuckles) so I went down the garden and got 'em sweet pepper, pretty near half a bag. She put a big thing on the stove on to fry. And I don't know how it got in there - one hot one!

(Francis laughs)

So I went outside, put them in the batch and they was waiting outside. And it got ready and I give it to 'em. And there was, great big, there was a great big hedge on the other side. They, they got their batch and they went over there to eat. So I went over there and peek between a the hedge, see if they would eat them. Man, they were eating but tears come out their eyes!

Oh my.

So after while they come back here. They said, "Please, give us a drink of water." So I says, "Oh, my God ----- whatever you want." And they walk and they a still they, "Thank you, God bless you. Thank you and God bless you." They gone. Three more, couple more come. I says. Get my wife -----, huh? Come on.

The Depression was a very difficult time for a lot of people.

I just, I just call her to make you proof. He wouldn't, wouldn't a believe that.

Oh, I believe you.

That we have people come here for sandwich all the
(MRS. M.) Oh yeh, oh yeh. I feed a those a people, yeh. When there was there was a, you know, Depression ...a..one a..... remember that old man come here. He was a rich a man before. Now he ask a me, you know, for the water. Was so cold, he ask for the, you know, was frost, see. Where you come from? ----- Was old man. Remember old man? Was on Sunday. I remember it. "Oh, give me peach, too." We had peach tree and I can a then all the time, you know, summer, see. (Spoken very fast)

That's O.K. That's fine.

(MRS. M.) Ohhhhhh. (Realizes she's on tape) (Laughs)

That's fine. So the Depression was a very difficult time, wasn't it?

I just call her to prove, you know that.

Oh, I believed you Mr. Marcozzi, but it's, it's good. I, I like..... did she want to join us? Mrs. Marcozzi, come sit.

(MRS. M) No, no, that's all right. It's, you know.

O.K.

(MRS. M) I no know some the answers. That's all right.

All right, now....

(MRS. M) You, you remember everything?

Oh yeh, he's doing - we're doing very, very nicely. Yes, we're doing quite nicely here.

(MRS. M) I no been here too long. Just you know.

No, we're coming along fine.

(MRS. M.) Yeh, O.K.

All right now, when a the following election came around a.....

What election?

Well, Hoover was in.

You mean Hoover?

After Hoover. Hoover was in from 1928 to '32, right?

Yeh, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Then Franklin Roosevelt came in.

Uh huh.

What changes did you notice then?

What, what changes?

Yes.

Big change!

In what way?

In a way, well, a... I, I don't know. It's a hard because the people you tell the truth it's heck for you. Franklin D. Roosevelt everybody think he was good man and the reason a we claim he was good man a because before he went in there was De-pression and Depression continue till we went a to the war. Cause he try to do something good. Somebody had to do it because United States was, was broke.

Uh huh.

So but a the change was a this. I'm not condemn, I just a say what a happened. It's a fact. A..... Woodrow Wilson and Harding, Coolidge and Hoover did not recognize a Russia. Now it's a changed because a claimed a Russia was Communism. That's a what they tell us but....

Uh huh.

No, my belief is it's the reaction of the capitalism which I'm not a a gainst capitalist myself. That you got a dollar, you got that, you're capitalist.

Yes.

A...the... the communists never start the war. Never did! Nobody could prove the capitalist between 'em started the war and the United States of Americ' went there nineteen hundred and seventeen. I think it was April 7 to -----. They know what was going to happen to the part of England. The people who call themselves the law. Don't let it get you. I'm not talking about the poor people of England but the government of England used to be. So we went there under Wilson. General J. Pershing was Commander-in-Chief of Expeditionary Forces in Europe. Woodrow Wilson went to Europe when the United States join the, the League of Nations, they call it in them day. But General J. Pershing come back and he went a before

Congress of the United States of America' and he was crying, took his hat off that no more should United States send young people outside United States to fight. So Congress pass a law, Neutrality Law and this a law explain at the time if a, if a you can go over that a any nation between the trouble can come to the United States of America' and buy and go at their own risk. And the American Legion was established at the time that a no American soldier was go fight outside. But the way the capitalists in Europe start to fight again among theirselves under President a - I'm a not a blaming the President directly you understand - it's a, it's a his advisor like a ----- Johnson had it. So we go, I say we now, recognize Russia because we, we a the United States, not the people of the United States, ----- simple people saw what Hitler was done. Therefore they allow that man Churchill with two fingers up to come in this country, address the United States of - Congress ----- . And we give them seven billion dollars lend lease to England and fifty a to ----- and that wasn't all. So we call on Joseph a Stalin, the communists of Russia come out and help us. Help us to fight of side the communist - capitalist because was capitalists that start the war, not the communism. But we call on a communism. So called a communism to fight on our side to beat the other side, capitalism. So now this a, this a, what a happened - but I'm a not a criticizing, just a fact what happened and a, and a anybody with, with any idea can a, can a repeat this.

Yes.

But what a hap' after that, Winston Churchill no long a ----- still more war. All the Democratic Cabinet put in there quit a Roosevelt like a James Farley, Secretary of State...a.... Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Defense. Stimson was Republican. Knox came a, became a Secretary of the Navy, Stimson

Secretary of the Army and a so on. And we went to war and still they claim a be no more war. Like President Eisenhower, somebody ask him a question bout a six months go. Say, "What you think about this war?" And a Eisenhower just a one way and he say, "Where we promise there be no more war." That's all he say.

Huh.....

No, no, just a minute. No, this a capitalism fought among theirselves and buy, buy a ----- a Russia to help a one side of capitalism to destroy the other side. All made there was no cap- no communist in Europe. By going in nineteen hundred and fifteen, I mean a seventeen, we made, we make the largest population in Asia and Europe, which is Russian, communists. And in nineteen hundred and forty we went in there again and invited Russia to fight on our side. And we raise a heck in Europe:-----, Rumania, Albania, and ----- . Half the communist country didn't even know was communist. Now today, we still a fighting communism. So I don't know.

Yeh, now, I want to go back a few years. I want to, I want to go back to around 1923. Now during that period of time Mussolini was coming to power in Italy.

What's that?

Mussolini was coming to power in the early twenties in Italy.

I think it was a..... I forgot what year. I think it was 1925, I think.

Yeh, this was about when he started. He started his rise around that time.

Uh huh.

What did you think of him?

Well, a, Mister, I don't know anything about Mussolini except what I read in the paper.

All right.

The idea which a the one a side of the capitalism call a Mussolini a "Hitler," "Tojo," "dictator." He was because Musso- lini was one to drive the, the English, the foreigner in other words, out of the country. They wanted to run their own country and he did. ...re...reunite Italy. Done away with the Mafia, done away with the crooked and everything else. They wanted a..... they didn't want to go to war. They wanted to rule their own country but a happen a be that the in power of France and England was a in control over the finance.

Uh huh.

And then of course we went to war. We destroy him.

What, what did you think about his rise to power? What did your friends think? Did they think he was a good man?

Mussolini?

Yes.

Yes, he was good man but we not speaking about war and all.

That's right.

We speaking about the ----- because a war and now, now we say not a to say that President Johnson's bad President.

That's right.

He's a very good, a very good President. That's a my opinion but he's got bad advisors.

Uh huh.

And a, and a, and a Mr. Johnson's should tell the Ameri- can people who are these bad advisors and we should protect him and

respect him as what he is. Now remember now he's President of the United States.

O.K.

But he should say who is these bad advisors.

Yes, did the events in Italy affect your life in any way over here?

What's that?

Did the events in Italy when Mussolini was rising to power.....

Yeh.

Did a those events there affect your life in any way here in this country?

In United States of Americ'?

Yes.

No sir.

In no way did they affect you?

No sir, no sir, no way.

O.K. Did people, Italians, ever mention this to you? Did they ever say anything about Mussolini or ask you what you thought of him?

Well, a, everybody was a talking about a men like Hitler, Tojo, so on, Roosevelt, -----; everybody was talking about that. But I'm not a speaking about a war.

Yes.

Cause everybody a say that a Mussolini start a war there in Italy.

Yes.

That's a what they claim.

O.K.

But then, then a war, when a war come who's to blame?

(Laughs)

O.K. What effect did World War Two have on you?

None.

None whatsoever? World War Two didn't affect you?

No, nothing, nothing at all. Anything you have to do. When you live in a country, you ought to live under the law of the country or get out. And that's what's the matter with this citizen of the United States today. I'm referring to the Jew. I'm not against the Jew but the Jew don't want to live as citizen of country. Now you take a Germany. I no approve of what Germany did to the Jew. No, I don't! According to the papers, but the, the Jew is not a Jew was not a United States Jew or a United States citizen. They didn't a kill the Italian, they didn't kill in Greece, they didn't kill the American. I mean the civilian, you know. They didn't kill in Russia. In Germany they kill the Jew. When they kill the Jew, they kill a citizen of Germany. Why didn't these a live up to a, to a the law of that country? Course I don't say what was right what they did. You know, you know what I'm referring to now?

Yes.

When Italy and United States of Americ' were declare a war with one another, I was a from a Italy. Now suppose in this country I was a spy for Italy; don't you think the United States would hang me? Huh?

Yes, yes.

When I point that out, a lot of people don't understand.

O.K.....

Now, now, I've been here all my, all my younger life and older life now, you know.

Yes.

I never see, although a I'm not against, but tell a truth - when you tell a truth you can repeat. - I never see a Jew to work on the track or stick their hands in anywhere, anywhere. But heck to sell of piece of, of, of (Chuckles). I won't say it.

O.K. Well, a.....

A.....a.... I tell you this. That's why, that's why we have a trouble now. If the Italians in this country would have been against the United States and a in favor of Italy and start to blow up the plants here, they would have been in trouble, wouldn't they?

Yes, yes.

But we was a.... citizen of United States. Somebody was not citizens of United States, but we live here, stay here, work here and we wouldn't take any parts in except through the law.

Yeh, what would you consider to be the greatest change in the United States since you came here?

Bout a what?

Well, a, the grea- in general what would you say to be the greatest change?

The greatest a change a that a society lost a their honor.

Society's lost its honor you think?

That's right. Because a the criminal through the court, the, the lawmakers, the legislators no make no more laws today. They just get paid and the judge make the law.

Uh huh.

If I had my way, I'd do way with - first thing - I do way with the Family Court because that's where they breed. Now, if

I had the children today, of course I got a little grandchildren, if I had children under my care and gets in trouble, I'm the father. I'm responsible for my children, not to send to the Family Court a Judge.

Uh huh.

That's a where, that's a where, that's a where they learn.

Yes.

When they go in there, they go free. I see, I saw ----- street when they come back, they, they look like ----- because they, the Family Court, depend who you are. When you go to court, there's no law any more.

Yes.

Depends on who you are and who you know and how much money you got.

Have you ever desired to return to Italy?

(Pause) No.

Have you ever regretted coming to the United States?

Not a bit.

O.K.

I was, I was happy to be in Italy and I am more happy to be in this a country - equal!

Have you ever longed for a return to the "good old days?"

Huh?

Have you ever wanted or wished to go back to the "good old days?"

You mean a you - what you think through the law?

No, a now, in every respect and the way you lived and a everything.

A wha.... to live.... I would, I would like to go back. I would, I would a like to go back because I less understand this that the young people-you might be one of them.....

O.K., go ahead. I'm listening.

Criticize the old people here today and, and you, you talk to someone, "What, you want to go back to horse and buggy, mister?" The hands of the people, the donkey, and the jackass, and the horse built the United States of America, not these other automobiles. They run on the streets today and you build the highway and people go in there and a get killed. And when they go to the hospital, they no, no got no insurance or nothing and it's us has to pay.

Uh huh.

So I'm a, I'm a like to go back to that because a I, I was more happiness then.

Uh huh.

Very happy.

Uh huh.

Today you cannot be happy because gets a dark, you don't know, you cannot go out. Lot of people fraid to go to churches a after dark. Why? Because a the court not a punish the criminals. That's it.

Good. Do you have anything else you'd like to add to what we've already been over?

What's that?

Do you have anything else you'd like to add to what we've already been over?

Hmmm, yeh, well, I got a lot of things to say but I'm afraid.

(Laughs) No need to be afraid.

I'm afraid because I, I think I say too much about this a lawmaker. I'm not criticizing anybody but it's a fact.

Uh huh.

You elect men in office, f...f...first thing you know he promise a lot of thing. Then you got to pay him to go to a...a... to, to state a legislation to the House. You got to pay his transportation. When that's not enough, he adds two more cents on a mile. And when he got up there, pay two thousand dollar, three thousand dollar his wife's salary. But the way they put past people. Nothing! Got to go yourself, got to pay your ----- wage to the judge when they makes the law today for a salary.

Yes.

Thousand dollars, that's all, that's, that's, that's, that's all a different today. Them day you take a justice of the peace was an honor to have the job - not pay. And the people have respect for them and respect the people. Today you haven't got no respect except a when you go to court with a, with a criminal. He's a gentleman.

Yes.

You the hobos!

Yes.

(TAPE ENDS)