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Interview with Ermino DeLuca

[00:00]

Interviewer: Mr. DeLuca, where were you born?

Mr. DeLuca: Italy.

Interviewer: Where in Italy were you born?

Mr. DeLuca: In Contaldi (phonetic). It's a little town. Contaldi.

Interviewer: Contaldi?

Mr. DeLuca: In Cataldi, it's a little town where I was born.

Interviewer: Where is...?

Mr. DeLuca: But it's really one of the smaller ones.

Interviewer: What is it near? What...?

Mr. DeLuca: Near Latolna *[phonetic]*. Latolna.

Interviewer: Latolna?

Mr. DeLuca: Right.

Interviewer: And where is that located in Italy?

Mr. DeLuca: Province in Abruzzi.

Interviewer: In Abruzzi?

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay, now, what year were you born?

Mr. DeLuca: Nineteenth of November, 1899.

Interviewer: 1899. What did your father do?

Mr. DeLuca: Properties. See, he had, uh...

Interviewer: Was he a farmer?

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah. He had his own property and *[unintelligible]* agricultures.

Interviewer: Agriculture. Okay. Fine. Did you go to school in Italy?

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: How old were you when you started?

Mr. DeLuca: Well, I was six, six years. Like grammar school.

Interviewer: You were six years old.

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: And how long did you go to school?

Mr. DeLuca: When I was nine years.

Interviewer: Until you were nine years old? So you went...

Mr. DeLuca: No, no. Nine years altogether. From six to fourteen.

Interviewer: Oh, you went for nine years. Okay. While you were going to school, did you also work? Do any work, for example, work after school with your father or anything?

Mr. DeLuca: No, no, no.

Interviewer: So you just went to school and you went to school. The school that you went to, was it a private school or was it a church school?

Mr. DeLuca: Public.

Interviewer: A public school? Public school. Did it cost you anything to go to school in those days?

Mr. DeLuca: No.

Interviewer: Absolutely free.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you have to pay for books?

Mr. DeLuca: Well, books you had to pay *[unintelligible]* the school has a book for us.

Interviewer: In other words...

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* in those days, no one buy them because the school *[unintelligible]* for you.

Interviewer: Okay, the school supplied you with everything you needed.

Mr. DeLuca: That's right.

Interviewer: Now, when you finished with your schooling, at age fourteen, what did you do then?

Mr. DeLuca: Well, I *[unintelligible]* stay around the house, you know, take care we had a couple of horse, you know *[unintelligible]* couple of horse with... We were going to get some merchandise from time to time.

Interviewer: All right, so you just hauled merchandise...

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah. Not every day, but two, three times a week. Corn or something like that. Wheat.

Interviewer: So this is what you did after you finished school, right?

Mr. DeLuca: Yes. But not every day.

Interviewer: Now, when you were a boy, after you finished school and so forth, did you ever travel outside of your little town?

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah. I went to my province *[unintelligible]*, and I went to my, like county, it's about five, six miles outside my little town *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Well, what did you go for? Was this just in business with the horse and the wagon to pick up things?

Mr. DeLuca: Well sometimes, I went, you know, for that. Sometime I went just to buy something. For farming things like that.

Interviewer: In other words, just for private business.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: When did you first start thinking about coming to the United States?

Mr. DeLuca: I started about 19...1918.

Interviewer: You started thinking about coming to the United States. What made you start thinking about coming here? Did you hear somebody talk about it?

Mr. DeLuca: Well, see, my, my dear father passed away and *[unintelligible]* passed away, and he had been here twice.

Interviewer: Oh, I see.

Mr. DeLuca: 1905, 1900 and 1905. 'Course my brother was, and he's still here. **[unintelligible]** and he had a couple in mind **[unintelligible]** my mother's side and my father's side **[unintelligible]**.

Interviewer: So this is why you decided to come here.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah, you see I wanted to go see myself. My dead father said **[unintelligible]** because he knows what's what them days.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Mr. DeLuca: About fifty, sixty, seventy years ago. And I was **[unintelligible]** near the heart, and he ordered me out.

Interviewer: In other words, he didn't want you to come to the United States.

Mr. DeLuca: When I got my age, twenty-one, he can't **[unintelligible]** no more because I support my own **[unintelligible]**.

Interviewer: Right, right. Now, you say that in 1918, you started thinking about coming here.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: When did you finally come to the United States?

Mr. DeLuca: 19...19...1922.

Interviewer: In 1922. Now, Italy was in the first World War, 1914 to 1918.

Mr. DeLuca: '18.

Interviewer: Did you serve in the Army during that time? Yes, you did.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Now, what sort of thing did you do while you were in the Army?

Mr. DeLuca: Well, I was infantry. I was trained to fight to **[unintelligible]**.

Interviewer: The infantry?

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: I see. Where were you? In Northern Italy fighting.

[05:00]

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah...no. Up in Piabe *[phonetic]* or whatever you called it *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. DeLuca: There for about a month *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: All right. Now, when you finally decided to come to the United States, from Abruzzi, how did you come here? From where did you leave in Italy? You came by boat, right?

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: Where did you catch the boat?

Mr. DeLuca: From Naples.

Interviewer: In Naples? How did you get to Naples?

Mr. DeLuca: The train.

Interviewer: By train. All right. Now, when you got to Naples, was the boat there the day that you got there?

Mr. DeLuca: No, I had to wait a couple of days.

Interviewer: You had to wait a couple of days.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you stay in a hotel that time?

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: And did you have it all arranged before you went to Naples?

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: What ship did you leave on?

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* dismantled the ship, but...

Interviewer: Was it an Italian ship?

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: It was a small one?

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Well, that's okay, if you don't remember it, it's not that important, I suppose. It was an Italian ship, though.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: Do you remember anything about your trip over here?

Mr. DeLuca: Across the ocean?

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. DeLuca: It was too bad, you know.

Interviewer: About how long did it take?

Mr. DeLuca: Oh, it take twelve days.

Interviewer: Twelve days? Did it stop anywhere?

Mr. DeLuca: No.

Interviewer: Just came straight over.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: What were the conditions like aboard the ship?

Mr. DeLuca: Oh, it wasn't like today.

Interviewer: It wasn't like today.

Mr. DeLuca: ***[unintelligible]*** lined up like soldiers, you know. I mean, you know, give you ***[unintelligible]*** like a blanket...

Interviewer: Like a mess kit.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah. It's like in soldier life.

Interviewer: In other words...

Mr. DeLuca: Sit four to five hours on the floor. With, you know, your mattress or blanket.

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. DeLuca: So *[unintelligible]* experience was bad. Didn't like that. But there was, like *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: It wasn't very comfortable.

Mr. DeLuca: No. No.

Interviewer: Did they have men and women all mixed together?

Mr. DeLuca: No, no, no, no.

Interviewer: Had them separated?

Mr. DeLuca: Separated, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay, Where did you land in the United States?

Mr. DeLuca: In New York.

Interviewer: In New York? Did they hold you up very long in New York when you...

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*. No. They hold me up... Wait a minute, wait a minute. They hold me up three days.

Interviewer: They held you up for three days?

Mr. DeLuca: Because in *[unintelligible]* day, the port in New York was *[unintelligible]* Saturday, so he was not in there, you know, 'cause the office is closed.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Mr. DeLuca: So he...and Monday was Labor Day, so, he held us up three days. Tuesday, went out, you know, *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Did anybody meet you in New York?

Mr. DeLuca: No.

Interviewer: What did you do, have the address on a card or something?

Mr. DeLuca: I had an address and everything, yeah.

Interviewer: And they put you on a train there *[unintelligible]*.

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: In other words, you had to tag that put you on a train and sent you...

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah, they put *[unintelligible]* big old station down here. I wanted *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: And then they tore it down. Delaware Avenue and DuPont Street.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did anybody meet you here in Wilmington?

Mr. DeLuca: No.

Interviewer: Then how...

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* the street with the address I have.

Interviewer: You had... How did you know how to get to where you were going?

Mr. DeLuca: Caught a taxi.

Interviewer: Oh, you just took a cab.

Mr. DeLuca: He didn't understand me, but when I gave him the address, he knows what's what and take me right over.

Interviewer: Okay. With whom did you stay when you first came?

Mr. DeLuca: At first when I come over, I stay with my brother. He stayed with my family, my family stayed with my mother and brother.

Interviewer: Was this in the Italian community here?

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah. *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Okay. Now, did you pay room and board when you first came here?

Mr. DeLuca: I paid board.

Interviewer: If it isn't getting too personal, how much did you pay?

Mr. DeLuca: I used to pay about twenty-five, thirty dollars a month.

Interviewer: Twenty-five or thirty dollars a month.

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*, board, everything.

Interviewer: In other words, that's supplying you with everything. Complete. What was your first job here?

Mr. DeLuca: Down at Brandywine Parklands.

Interviewer: Brandywine Parklands?

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* make a dime there, see.

Interviewer: Where was that located?

Mr. DeLuca: It's down where *[unintelligible]* what happened to *[unintelligible]*, same estate *[unintelligible]* this side.

Interviewer: Where the water department *[unintelligible]*?

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah. There's a creek there, and Market Street bridge, down *[unintelligible]* down, what do you call it, power company.

Interviewer: Power and light, yeah.

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: That was where you worked.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: How did you get the job there?

Mr. DeLuca: My brother used to work there.

Interviewer: I see. Now, who did you work with when you worked there? Did you work by yourself there?

Mr. DeLuca: I work on the floor. Pick up two and twos, you know? Pick up three, like that.

Interviewer: Uh huh. Were there many Italians who worked with...?

Mr. DeLuca: No *[unintelligible]* all the foremen *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Oh, I see. Did you have any difficulty communicating...?

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

[10:00]

Interviewer: How did you get along with people in general? I'm not speaking about Italian people.

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*. Well, I get along all right.

Interviewer: You didn't have any problems...

Mr. DeLuca: No. No.

Interviewer: ...because you were Italian or anything like that?

Mr. DeLuca: No trouble, no fight. (Unintelligible.)

Interviewer: All right. Now, how about your social life when you first came here. You weren't married when you first came here.

Mr. DeLuca: No. I was single.

Interviewer: How about your social life. What did you when you weren't working? Did you go out?

Mr. DeLuca: Oh, I go out with friends. *[unintelligible]* New York, Brooklyn. *[unintelligible]* Wilmington *[unintelligible]*. One night, he goes here, one night he goes there, play cards, *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: This is the sort of thing you did. All right. How about your religious life? Go to church in those days?

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: When you were in Wilmington, where did you go to church?

Mr. DeLuca: In Wilmington, it was *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: You were here for *[unintelligible]* Saint Anthony's Church *[unintelligible]*.

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* one mass with Father Tucker *[unintelligible]* where he say Saint Anthony's was needed.

Interviewer: In other words, Saint Peter...

Mr. DeLuca: Saint Peter *[unintelligible]* poor *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Do you remember whether or not they used to have an Italian mass?

Mr. DeLuca: They did?

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. DeLuca: No, no, no. I remember *[unintelligible]*. If you were *[unintelligible]* Latin, that's what *[unintelligible]* any church you go to *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: In other words, Latin the mass *[unintelligible]*.

Mr. DeLuca: ***[unintelligible]***.

Interviewer: Well, I meant that...

Mr. DeLuca: ***[unintelligible]***.

[Cross talk 00:11:49]

Mr. DeLuca: ***[unintelligible]*** some preacher ***[unintelligible]***.

Interviewer: Did you have many associates?

Mr. DeLuca: Societies?

Interviewer: No, I mean many friends. Associates. Who were not Italian. People with whom you associated freely.

Mr. DeLuca: ***[unintelligible]***

[Cross talk 00:12:10]

Mr. DeLuca: Any kind. I go out with any kind of nationality. Except, of course, ***[unintelligible]***.

Interviewer: Did you belong to any social...

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah...

Interviewer: ...beneficial or political...

Mr. DeLuca: No political ***[unintelligible]***.

Interviewer: You did belong to some social...

Mr. DeLuca: Son...Sons of Columbus.

Interviewer: You belonged to Sons of Columbus. Was both a social and beneficial...

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah, it's... Sons of Columbus was ***[unintelligible]*** society where...

Interviewer: The Holy Named Society...

Mr. DeLuca: ***[unintelligible]***.

Interviewer: No, it's just a religious... How about the Eagles? Did you belong to the Eagles?

Mr. DeLuca: I used to belong, but then I grew up.

Interviewer: I see. When did you come back to Wilmington from New York?

Mr. DeLuca: From New York, I go over to Italy.

Interviewer: Oh, you went back to Italy.

Mr. DeLuca: 1928. And then I stay over in Italy in '28. And around Christmastime, and I stay. And I lost my father over in March. Fourth of March. And then I, couple months later, I met my wife. I got married. And then I get back here. By myself.

Interviewer: All right. Now, when you came back here again, did you come back to Wilmington?

Mr. DeLuca: No...wait a minute... Yeah, I came back to... No, I went back to New York. I think; I'm not completely sure. *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Did you go back to...

Mr. DeLuca: I'm glad I went back over again.

Interviewer: And then you went back to Italy again.

Mr. DeLuca: Second time in ten months I went back. *[unintelligible]* a note, and so I had a few pennies and *[unintelligible]* gonna use them. *[unintelligible]* two kids.

Interviewer: You had two children in Italy.

Mr. DeLuca: One is *[unintelligible]* and then I got the other one the second time I went back.

Interviewer: I see. Now, that was in 1928 that you went back.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you have a citizenship paper?

Mr. DeLuca: No.

[Cross talk 00:14:13]

Mr. DeLuca: I been a citizen in 1927.

Interviewer: I see. Well, when did you come back to the United States then?

Mr. DeLuca: I come back last time, you mean.

Interviewer: For the last time, yes.

Mr. DeLuca: 1933.

Interviewer: In 1933.

Mr. DeLuca: In September. September 1933.

Interviewer: September. And you stayed here that time.

Mr. DeLuca: I went back about six years ago.

Interviewer: Yeah, but what I mean is...

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Right. Now, when you came back here in 1933, did you come back with your family?

Mr. DeLuca: No, no.

Interviewer: When did your family...

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* 1937.

Interviewer: In 1937.

Mr. DeLuca: December four and eighth.

Interviewer: Okay, fine. Now, you should have a very vivid recollection of life in Italy under Mussolini, right? Because you came here for the first time in 1921, right?

[15:01]

Interviewer: And two years later, he came to power in 1923.

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* I was there when he come in power.

Interviewer: You were in...

Mr. DeLuca: '22, he goes into power. In '23 *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: What was it like in Italy before he took over and after he took over?

Mr. DeLuca: (Speaking Italian).

Interviewer: One hundred percent better.

Mr. DeLuca: After he took over.

Interviewer: After he took over. In what way was it better?

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* education, and light, school *[unintelligible]* education, and the road and *[unintelligible]* and drinking water and *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: In other words, when he came into power, he improved the educational system...

Mr. DeLuca: First thing, it was education.

Interviewer: Right. That was his number one project.

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*. Yeah.

Interviewer: Number two, he gave you better drinking water. And number three, he improved the road system.

Mr. DeLuca: Road *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: And transportation system. He built tunnels.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: And as he improved the road system, everything.

Mr. DeLuca: Roads, everything.

Interviewer: How about law and order, for example? How was it before he came in and after he came in?

Mr. DeLuca: Now what are you talking about?

Interviewer: I'm talking about law.

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: I want to ask you again about law and order. You said everything changed, became much better after Mussolini came into power.

Mr. DeLuca: Yes, yes.

Interviewer: Now, the question is, what was the difference that you could see in the establishment of law and order before he came into power and after he came into power.

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* difference, a lot of difference, you know? *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Before he came into power, there were strikes every day.

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*. People don't go to work. People don't go to school. People don't deserve nothing. Whatever they feel like.

Interviewer: In other words, *[unintelligible]*.

[Cross talk 00:17:10]]

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* no. It was too much because he *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: In other words, you had a rule of law. He established the law *[unintelligible]*.

[Cross talk 00:17:29]]

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: *[unintelligible]* and to obey the law.

Mr. DeLuca: Obey the law. That's right.

Interviewer: Otherwise, they would be subject to prosecution.

Mr. DeLuca: That's right.

Interviewer: Okay, now, and this made a tremendous difference. Now, would you say it raised the morale of the Italian people?

Mr. DeLuca: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay, now, did... In other words, you approved *[unintelligible]*.

[Cross talk 00:17:53]]

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* I been there, I see *[unintelligible]* I see.

Interviewer: Now, did your friends also feel the same way about *[unintelligible]*.

[Cross talk 00:18:05]]

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* one is good to you, one is bad to you.

Interviewer: Right. Now, when you came back to the United States, you came back in 1930...

Mr. DeLuca: '33.

Interviewer: '33. Now, when you got back, Franklin Roosevelt was already...

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: He had just been elected.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you see any visible changes in this country?

Mr. DeLuca: There was a change. Course, compared to, you know, I went back, I told you the reason. There no job. *[unintelligible]* day job in the Depression time you can buy, if there's somebody with a fifty dollar bill, they give me job. *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: But there were no jobs here and this is why you went back to Italy. Well, when you came back here in '33, there were jobs. You were able to...

[Cross talk 00:19:02]

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: And you were able to get a job at that time?

Mr. DeLuca: I get job *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Where did you work, then, when you got back?

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* I work at *[unintelligible]*. I meant to say *[unintelligible]* before I left, it's bad, but *[unintelligible]* many job, you know? Left and right *[unintelligible]*. But if you *[unintelligible]* you find a job.

Interviewer: Okay, now, when you came back this time...

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Right. Were you in Brooklyn then again?

Mr. DeLuca: No, no, no.

Interviewer: You came to Wilmington.

Mr. DeLuca: Arrive in Wilmington.

Interviewer: All right. Now, how did the people in Wilmington, when you came back here, how did they seem to feel about Mussolini?

Mr. DeLuca: I see a lot of difference, you know? Compare before I left *[unintelligible]* I come over from this country. Lot different, lot of respect.

[20:02]

Mr. DeLuca: Before *[unintelligible]*, you can even get a job on the street. You know, street clean. I can swear to that. You won't see no cop. You won't see *[unintelligible]* employment. All different kind of people dying, can't get no job at all. And you know why? No education the people. Now, twenty years *[unintelligible]* lot of improvement. Lot of educated people.

Interviewer: In other words...

Mr. DeLuca: March, fifty years ago, *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Right. In other words, you could see that the changes...

Mr. DeLuca: The difference? Yes.

Interviewer: ...uh, in between when you came back here and...

Mr. DeLuca: The last time.

Interviewer: ...in '28 when you went back to Italy in that there were a lot more Italian people...

Mr. DeLuca: Yes, *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: ...who worked for the city...

Mr. DeLuca: That's right.

Interviewer: ...who worked in...

Mr. DeLuca: Government. *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: All right. Now, what other changes did you notice here? Did you notice how people felt about Mussolini? Did a lot of people ask you about what life was like in Italy under Mussolini and so forth?

Mr. DeLuca: A lot of 'em I come across I asked *[unintelligible]*. Some of 'em say it was all right; some of 'em say it was no good because *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Right. Okay.

Mr. DeLuca: But I heard myself when *[unintelligible]*. When I came back, okay, he wasn't *[unintelligible]*. Father *[unintelligible]* he's still living, bless him. *[unintelligible]* big guard, now we got a second guard over Italy. *[unintelligible]*. I owed myself *[unintelligible]* hear with my own ear. Even Roosevelt said that on the radio. Before the trouble started.

Interviewer: Before Mussolini became involved with Hitler.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah. Yeah. *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: You thought he was doing a real good effective job in Italy. What effect did World War Two have on you? Now, you were...

Mr. DeLuca: It was the first war.

Interviewer: You were in the first World War; you fought in the Italian Army. Now, in the first World War, the United States and Italy were on the same side.

Mr. DeLuca: Yes.

Interviewer: No problem. But in the second World War, the United States and Italy were on different sides. Now, here you were in the United States. What effect did this have on you?

Mr. DeLuca: Well, the effect made me feel bad because my son got *[unintelligible]* and went up in Korea.

[Cross-talk 22:27]

Interviewer: No, I'm talking about World War Two. Not the Korean War. I'm talking about World War Two when the United States and Italy were...

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: How did you feel, though, when the United States entered the fighting against one another?

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: All right. What effect did the *[unintelligible]* on you?

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* an effect on me because I first *[unintelligible]* the other side because it was in my own town in my own house, my own *[unintelligible]*. And then it got destroyed. It got *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Your relatives were there.

Mr. DeLuca: Yeah. And *[unintelligible]* die. An explosion and *[unintelligible]* like that. And the house destroyed. And now we're here and I was sorry about it because *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Yes. Did you have, run in to any difficulty in the United States during World War Two, or just at the beginning of it, because you were Italian?

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* the way I said it was before. I was a *[unintelligible]* then. There was a *[unintelligible]* finish everything. I go in peace into the *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Yes. Well, what I meant was did anybody ever...

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* opinion?

Interviewer: ...Speak to you almost like to blame you for the war because you were an Italian? Did anybody ever direct themselves to you in that way?

Mr. DeLuca: No. No. No.

Interviewer: All right. You never had any difficulty because you were an Italian.

Mr. DeLuca: No. No.

Interviewer: What would you consider to be one of the greatest changes that took place in the United States since your first arrival here?

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: If you were to look back and say, well, there have been a lot of changes, but the one biggest change that I could pick out would be such and such. Is it possible for you to pick out one thing like that?

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]* thing I can pick out.

Interviewer: Well, I don't know. This is the, this is the sort of thing that...

Mr. DeLuca: Well, it's a lot of differences, you see? Forty years ago, when I came across, there wasn't much. There was some work *[unintelligible]*. The working people used to get nothing, you know? *[unintelligible]* three dollar a week. Not today. You got *[unintelligible]*. If you take it, you got a house. *[unintelligible]*. Even the bathrooms *[unintelligible]*.

[25:22]

Interviewer: Back in the early days, the, uh, even the very wealthy did not have the things that we have, the things in our house...

Mr. DeLuca: That's right. That's right. That's right.

Interviewer: For example, a big refrigerator.

Mr. DeLuca: Everything. Everything. It's a lot of change.

Interviewer: Well, what would you say contributed to the change in the living standard of the ordinary working man? Would you say that perhaps Roosevelt's election had

something to do with this? Or would it have happened anyhow whether he was elected or not? Do you think that perhaps Roosevelt's coming into office had a great...

Mr. DeLuca: Well I guess *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: You really wouldn't know.

Mr. DeLuca: I can't say *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: All you know is...

Mr. DeLuca: *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Okay. Since your last coming to the United States in 1933, have you ever wanted to go back to Italy to stay?

Mr. DeLuca: No. When some time it come into mind, it goes. Anybody have that. Any nationality. It's disgust sometimes. Feel like why I go back. But *[unintelligible]* I don't get knocked down by nobody *[unintelligible]*. We can stay *[unintelligible]* if you feel like working. First *[unintelligible]*, and second, if you like the work, you got everything you came here *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Have you ever regretted coming to the United States? Have you ever regretted...?

Mr. DeLuca: No, no, no.

Interviewer: Okay, then. Well, then, that pretty much sums it up. Unless you have something you'd like to add to what we've already covered here? Do you have anything else you would like to add?

Mr. DeLuca: No, that's enough *[unintelligible]*.

Interviewer: Okay.

[00:27:04] **End of audio**