



## **Citation for this collection:**

MSS 179 Robert H. Richards, Jr., Delaware oral history collection, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware

## **Contact:**

Special Collections, University of Delaware Library  
181 South College Avenue  
Newark, DE 19717-5267  
302.831.2229 / 302.831.1046 (fax)  
<http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec>  
[askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu](mailto:askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu)

## **Terms governing use and reproduction:**

Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law.

Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, for questions. [askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu](mailto:askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu)

## **A note about transcriptions:**

Of the original 252 audio-recordings in this collection, 212 of these tapes were transcribed around the time of the original recordings (between 1966 and 1978). In 2012, Cabbage Tree Solutions was contracted to create transcriptions for the remaining tapes. Corrections to and clarifications for all transcriptions are welcome, especially for names and places. Please contact Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, for questions. [askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu](mailto:askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu)

# Mr. & Mrs. Enrico Manetti

[00:00:00]

Interviewer: All right now we got to start all over again. Where were you born Mr. Manetti?

Mr. Manetti: Italy, Teramo.

Interviewer: In Teramo? Province of Teramo in Italy.

Mr. Manetti: Teramo in Abruzzo.

Interviewer: And is in Teramo, Abruzzo?

Mr. Manetti: Abruzzo, yeah, Teramo, Abruzzo.

Interviewer: Now what was the name of the town where you were born?

Mr. Manetti: Porjo San Vittorino *[inaudible]* [0:00:27].

Interviewer: Porjo?

Mr. Manetti: San Vittorino.

Interviewer: San Vittorino? Okay. What year were you born?

Mr. Manetti: About 1993.

Interviewer: 1893?

Mr. Manetti: 1893, yeah.

Interviewer: 1893? Now what did you do in Italy?

Mr. Manetti: On the farm, I worked *[inaudible]* [0:00:48]

Interviewer: Okay you worked on a farm?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: You worked the ground?

Mr. Manetti: I worked on the ground yeah.

Interviewer: Did your father work at the farm also?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, my father, my brother.

Interviewer: The whole family?

Mr. Manetti: Whole family.

Interviewer: Was the farm your fathers? Yes belong to your father?

Mr. Manetti: No, no it belonged to the rich people.

Interviewer: Okay now what arrangement did you have with the people who owned it? Now you worked on the farm did they pay you or did you?

Mr. Manetti: ***[inaudible] [0:01:22].***

Interviewer: Now with everything that you grew, they got half?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, they got half, yeah.

Interviewer: Did you have to give the owner of the land a Christmas present at Christmas time too?

Mr. Manetti: Yes because turkey, eggs and chicken.

Interviewer: And you had to give that to the owner?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, give it to them.

Interviewer: But could you afford to eat a turkey yourself?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: So you had enough for yourself and for him too?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay fine. Now did you ever go to school in Italy?

Mr. Manetti: No.

Interviewer: You never went to school?

Mr. Manetti: Not go to school.

Interviewer: Okay.

**[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Okay fine. Whenever, if you have difficulty saying something in English you can say it in Italian and I'll just repeat it in English all right?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: We can do that, okay fine. Now when did you first start thinking about coming to the United States?

Mr. Manetti: Me?

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. Manetti: **[inaudible] [0:02:40]** come 1912.

Interviewer: Well that's the first time you came to the United States?

Mr. Manetti: I go home 1915 the time of the war, World War I.

Interviewer: Okay. Now I'm going to ask you a couple of questions before we get into that part. Do you mind if I take my jacket off?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, yeah go ahead oh my God.

Interviewer: Now in 1912 you came to the United States right?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Why did you come to the United States?

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Because in Italy life was very difficult you and only made 10 cents a day working 12 hours a day?

Mr. Manetti: That's it, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay so why did you decided you wanted to leave that land? Okay but why did you decide to come to the United States, why not go to Canada or Australia or South America?

Mr. Manetti: Because my friend in here.

Interviewer: You had a friend? Okay.

Mr. Manetti: **[inaudible] [0:03:37]** telling me come on in America [inaudible] and I said all right.

Interviewer: In other words you had a friend who wrote to you?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay and he said come to the United States you'll make 15 cents an hour instead of 10 cents a day and that was a lot better?

Mr. Manetti: God darn.

Interviewer: Yes, okay. Fine. Now when you decided to come to the United States how did you make arrangements to leave Italy to come here to the United States? In other words where did you buy your ticket? Where did you get your passport?

Mr. Manetti: Oh in Teramo.

Interviewer: In Teramo?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah in Teramo, yeah.

Interviewer: Is Teramo also a city?

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]** No it's a big town.

**[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: In other words you got your passport in Teramo and you had to go to Rome to get your...?

Mr. Manetti: No Rome I had to go the second time.

Interviewer: The second time?

Mr. Manetti: I come to this country in 1912 I go in 1915. After the World War done I got married in 1920 I come to this country.

**[00:05:02]**

Interviewer: Okay, fine. So in 1912 you left Porjo San Vittorino and you came to United States?

Mr. Manetti: United States.

Interviewer: Okay now when you left Porjo San Vittorino, did you leave in a stage coach, on a horse and burgee or did you walk to go to Teramo to get a train?

Mr. Manetti: Teramo I walked.

Interviewer: You walked to Teramo?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah walk.

Interviewer: How far was it?

Mr. Manetti: Take an hour, an hour and a half.

Interviewer: Took an hour, an hour and a half to walk?

Mr. Manetti: Then Teramo took a train.

Interviewer: You got a train in Teramo and went to Naples?

Mr. Manetti: Went to Naples, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. And do you remember the name of the ship that you came over on?

Mr. Manetti: Yes **[Foreign language]** Padermo.

Interviewer: Patrian?

Mr. Manetti: Patrian.

Interviewer: That was an Italian?

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]** Padre Sigeman.

Interviewer: You think it probably was an Italian ship? How many days did it take you to come to the United States?

Mr. Manetti: It took 15 days, 16 nights.

Interviewer: 15 days and 16 nights? I see. Now did you stop anywhere along the way? Did you stop in Gibraltar?

Mr. Manetti: Gibraltar.

Interviewer: In Gibraltar, was that the only stop?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah just one time.

Interviewer: Just one stop?

Mr. Manetti: One time.

Interviewer: And then you came right straight into the United States?

Mr. Manetti: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay then that was 1912, right?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah. *[inaudible]* [0:06:32].

Interviewer: Yeah that was 1912, okay. Now when you first got here did anybody meet you in New York or did you have to come down to Wilmington by yourself?

Mr. Manetti: I came by myself, no.

Interviewer: Did you have a tag on your lapel?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: Did you have to go through any health examination or anything?

Mr. Manetti: No, not even one.

Interviewer: You just came off the ship they put you on the train and said...

Mr. Manetti: On the train.

Interviewer: Okay now where did you land here on the train? Did you come into Wilmington or Newcastle?

Mr. Manetti: Dropped in Wilmington, take a trolley *[inaudible]* **[0:07:08]** Newcastle

Interviewer: How did you know where to get the trolley car?

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: You saw someone who spoke Italian?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: And he told you where to get the trolley car, right?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Now when you did get to Newcastle who were you looking for?

Mr. Manetti: Looking my friend.

Interviewer: Your friend, huh?

Mr. Manetti: My friend was already got there

Interviewer: Did he have any trouble finding him? Your friend

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]** he was right over there.

Interviewer: He was right where the trolley car left you off?

Mr. Manetti: He knew I was coming.

Interviewer: Oh he knew you were coming, he was waiting for you?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay fine. Now when you first got here in Newcastle did you live with your friend?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Was he married?



Mr. Manetti: My friend? Yeah.

Interviewer: He had his own house.

Mr. Manetti: He had his own house, got *[inaudible]* **[0:08:07]**

Interviewer: Okay, did you board with your friend?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: What was your friend's name?

Mr. Manetti: Fredinando.

Interviewer: Fredinando.

Mr. Manetti: Tritello.

Interviewer: Tritello?

Mr. Manetti: He's still living over there.

Interviewer: Oh is he? Maybe we should talk to him sometime too.

Mr. Manetti: He's getting old now.

Interviewer: Okay, now where did you get your first job when you came here?

Mr. Manetti: First job work on a track.

Interviewer: On trail road track?

Mr. Manetti: That's it, yeah.

Interviewer: What were you doing? Just setting track and changing tires?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah changing tires, raising up.

Interviewer: How did you get that job? How did you get the job? Did your friend help?

Mr. Manetti: My friend *[inaudible]* **[0:08:51]**.

Interviewer: Did he work there too?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: And he got you the job there?

Mr. Manetti: Got the job yeah.

Interviewer: Were they all Italians who worked on the tracks then?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah all Italian. Although the boss wasn't but.

Interviewer: Even the boss was Italian?

Mr. Manetti: No. the boss wasn't Italian, no.

Interviewer: He wasn't Italian, what was the boss do you remember?

Mr. Manetti: The boss named Apidna. But the boss is dead.

Interviewer: But you don't remember what his name was, rather you don't remember what nationality he was? Okay now how long did you work on the track?

Mr. Manetti: 30 months.

Interviewer: 30 months?

Mr. Manetti: 30 months.

Interviewer: And why did you leave?

Mr. Manetti: 30 months? My friend Tritello.

Interviewer: No why did you leave the job? Why did you quit working on the track?

Mr. Manetti: I didn't quit.

Interviewer: You didn't quit.

Mr. Manetti: Never quit, I quit only to go home.

Interviewer: This was 1915 and you were going back to Italy?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Why did you want to go back to Italy?

Mr. Manetti: Well time with war everybody at home *[inaudible]* [0:09:54] I got my mother and my father *[inaudible]* [0:10:03].

**[00:10:05]**

Interviewer: In other words you wanted to go back to Italy to fight in the First World War is that it? That you wanted to fight for Italy in World War I.

Mr. Manetti: World War I, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay now. When you decided to go back to Italy, did the Italian consulate over here pay for your transportation over?

Mr. Manetti: Yes, in Wilmington.

Interviewer: Okay did you go see him? The consulate was located then on West Street, wasn't he? Hi, wasn't the consulate located on Washington Street I believe or was it West? It was Washington Street.

Mr. Manetti: No, no.

Interviewer: You don't remember?

Mr. Manetti: I don't remember long time ago, you know? In Wilmington.

Interviewer: Okay, fine then. Where did they send you to New York to catch the ship to go back to Italy?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, in New York.

Interviewer: You went to New York. Were there a lot of Italian young boys?

Mr. Manetti: All young boys, all young boys.

Interviewer: Was the ship loaded with just all young boys going back to fight for Italy?

Mr. Manetti: Back in Italy. All young boys, the boat was full.

Interviewer: Now where did you land? In Naples?

Mr. Manetti: Naples.

Interviewer: Now when you got off the ship in Naples what did they do with you? Did you go right home or did they put you right in the army or what?

Mr. Manetti: No, go right home.

Interviewer: You went right home?

Mr. Manetti: I stayed 40 days in the house, my house in Italy. 40 days.

Interviewer: And after that into the army?

Mr. Manetti: Go.

Interviewer: But where did they send you for training first? Did they send you anywhere for training?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, yeah. We call Fargio.

Interviewer: The Fargio?

Mr. Manetti: Fargio, yeah.

Interviewer: And they sent you to Fargio for like basic training, is that it?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah training.

Interviewer: About how long did that last?

Mr. Manetti: Not quite a month.

Interviewer: Not quite a month?

Mr. Manetti: No, no.

Interviewer: Not even a month?

Mr. Manetti: No, no. Not quite a month, maybe 20 days. 25 then we had to go.

Interviewer: And that's all? And then they sent you where?

Mr. Manetti: They sent me Alps.

Interviewer: To the Alps? Alpini?

Mr. Manetti: No, no Fandaria.

Interviewer: In Fandaria? Not in Alpini?

Mr. Manetti: No, no.

Interviewer: Ina Fandaria and the *[inaudible]* [0:12:11].

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: And where did they send your unit? **[Foreign language]** Tradiono?

Mr. Manetti: Trendino? Yes. **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Right near Alystry that was the city to the north of Italy?

Mr. Manetti: Yes.

Interviewer: Was this in the mountains?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah all mount.

Interviewer: All mountains there?

Mr. Manetti: Big mount, all mount.

Interviewer: Now what did you do when you were there?

Mr. Manetti: Me?

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. Manetti: *[inaudible]* [0:12:47] the gun see the people come and shoot you're dead. In the night we call it shooting time.

Interviewer: Really?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah because nobody come you see, *[inaudible]* [0:12:58] day time not shoot all day the day time, you know? The people come you see them.

Interviewer: Yes but at night you couldn't see them so.

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Now how long did you stay there in the mountains?

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**.

Interviewer: 3 years and 7 days that you stayed up there on the frontline?

Mr. Manetti: No no frontline, go back come back over there, go back.

Interviewer: How long did you stay on the front before you come back for a rest?

Mr. Manetti: Two months.

Interviewer: You'd stay two months.

Mr. Manetti: Two months, one month, three months. Then when I had to come back it'd be a month.

Interviewer: Oh I see and then you'd stay on the lines one two or three months and then you'd come back for one month.

Mr. Manetti: For one month **[inaudible] [0:13:56]**

Interviewer: I see and then you go back up?

Mr. Manetti: I come back up.

Interviewer: But all through you spent about three years and 1 week.

Mr. Manetti: 7 days.

Interviewer: 7 days.

Mr. Manetti: And one week, yeah.

Interviewer: On the front lines? Now where you ever in any big battles, Caporato. Were you involved in Caporetto? The Battle of Caporetto?

Mr. Manetti: In Italy? **[inaudible] [0:14:22]**

Interviewer: You weren't there?

Mr. Manetti: No I've not been over there.

Interviewer: I see. You were never captured or anything, were you?

Mr. Manetti: No.

Interviewer: Okay now when you finished with the army after the war was over, where did you go? Did you come back to Porjo San Vottorino?

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: You got married.

Mr. Manetti: Our wedding [0:14:47]

Interviewer: It was 1919, right?

Mr. Manetti: I come back **[Foreign language]**.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you come back with him too?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah we came back together. Same boat.

Interviewer: Okay what boat did you come back on then?

**[00:15:00]**

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Oh that was the Patria, right? When you both came, but the one that he came on by himself.

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: That's okay then you don't remember the one that you came over on the first time?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, first time.

Interviewer: You don't remember the name of that one?

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Okay so the one that both of you came up on was the Patria?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: When did you come? In November you said?

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Oh the 20<sup>th</sup>? 1920?

Mr. Manetti: 1920.

Interviewer: 1920 you both came back?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: All right now, you landed in New York again, right?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you have any trouble coming through customs then or they just put you right on the train?

Mr. Manetti: Hope on the train, get off the train.

Interviewer: And you came right back here to Newcastle.

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Right in other words whenever you hit a station and stop the conductor would call out the name of the station whoever wanted to get off there would get off?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Now, did you get off in Wilmington again?

Mr. Manetti: Get off from Philadelphia I took a train I get off in Wilmington.

Interviewer: Okay and in Wilmington you took the Charlie and came too Newcastle. Now when you came to the United States the second time, when you came to Newcastle was your friend waiting for you again?

Mr. Manetti: Right over there.

Interviewer: Right now did you stay with him again.



Mr. Manetti: Five or six months, I got married you know?

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. Manetti: So we got my own house and stayed by myself.

Interviewer: And then after that you bought your own house?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Now when you came back did you go back to work for the railroad?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Now how long did you stay with the railroad?

Mr. Manetti: It might have been longer when we were there, a couple of years or three years **[Foreign language]**.

Interviewer: American Magnesium? Okay you left the railroad about three years went to American Magnesium?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: What kind of work did you do there?

Mr. Manetti: American Magnesium?

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. Manetti: Well **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: You unloaded the trains there? The trains would come in with pieces of iron so what, you unloaded the iron from the carts?

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: From sand, yes.

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: So you unloaded sand from cars, whatever they had for the company you worked for it that's what you did. Right?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay now, Mrs. Manetti during this time when you first came to this country how did you find the life here for a woman? How was life for a woman here at that time?

Mrs. Manetti: Me?

Interviewer: Yes.

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Life then was not as good as it is now but it was very good when you compare it with the way it was like in Italy?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Now it's even better.

Mrs. Manetti: Before **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: In Italy you had to work just like a man out in the fields?

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: And even with all the work you still never had enough to eat?

Mrs. Manetti: Not enough, nothing.

Interviewer: But over here in this country just Mr. Manetti working and you staying at home **[inaudible] [0:18:36]** things were all right?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay fine. Now how about socializing during the day did you just socialize with the ladies, just talk and so and so?

Mrs. Manetti: We talked with friends, that's all, I stay home.

Interviewer: Were they all Italians that lived around with you there?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah, all Italians.

Interviewer: All Italians?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay did you know any people who were not Italians?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: All Italians? Okay.

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**.

Interviewer: Now when you first came into this country in this 1912 you came to Newcastle and you lived on this street right here on Clayton Street. And you stayed here till you went back to Italy in 1915 and then when you came back in 1920 you moved right back here to Clayton Street again in Newcastle and you are still here, right?

Mr. Manetti: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: This is the first house that you bought right after you got married?

Mr. Manetti: No this is the second house **[inaudible] [0:19:38]** Oh yeah this is the first house.

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: This is the first house you bought.

Mrs. Manetti: He saying he was renting before.

Interviewer: Oh you were renting a different house before right?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah a different house, I was paying \$12 a month.

Interviewer: \$12 a month in 1920?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: What were you earning in 1920? Now when you first came here you were making 15cents an hour, right? And you worked what about 10hours a day?

**[00:20:04]**

Mr. Manetti: 10 hours a day yah.

Interviewer: Six days a week?

Mr. Manetti: Six days a week.

Interviewer: When you came back here in 1920 after World War 1, how much were you making an hour?

Mr. Manetti: 40 cents.

Interviewer: 40 cents an hour?

Mr. Manetti: It had gone up, you know.

Interviewer: And how many hours a day did you work?

Mr. Manetti: 10.

Interviewer: 10 hours and how many days a week?

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]** union.

Interviewer: Then the union started coming in?

Mr. Manetti: Come up, eight hours a day.

Interviewer: With eight hours a day?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: And how many days a week?

Mr. Manetti: Six.

Interviewer: Still six days a week?

Mr. Manetti: Still six days.

Interviewer: Okay now what was your relationship with other people like when you first came here to this country?

Mrs. Manetti: What do you mean with that?

Interviewer: What I mean is what sort of a social life did you have? Did you ever go out with other people or did you mostly stay at home and maybe you got together for a little picnic?

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: When you first came here in other words most of your socializing was in the house, family to family?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: You would go visit your friends, your friends would come visit, you had coffee and cookies and a drink maybe?

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: I understand sometimes you'd get together a couple of friends and go on picnic and stuff. Where did you use to go on a picnic did you go right down here in Newcastle where the park is now?

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language].**

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: In other words, the men would get together, it would be in the house the men would play cards, have a couple of drinks and the ladies would be in the kitchen talking and preparing food.

Mr. Manetti: That's it, that's it.

Interviewer: Fine. Now what was your religious life like? Did you go to church here in Newcastle? Did you ever go to church in Wilmington?

Mrs. Manetti: No, no.

Interviewer: Never went to church here?

Mr. Manetti: No, no. I'd go on a Sunday [crosstalk].

Interviewer: Now how was the church here in Newcastle did you ever have any Italian priests here?

Mr. Manetti: No.

Interviewer: Never had anybody who spoke Italian?

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**.

Interviewer: In order to go to confession you had to go to Wilmington?

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**.

Mr. Manetti: For such general places *[inaudible]* **[0:22:14]**

Interviewer: Just once for sure when you had an Italian here at the church but then he didn't stay very long they transferred him out?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Now whenever you wanted to go for confession you had to go to Wilmington. Where did you go? To St. Anthony's?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: St. Anthony? Huh? Okay.

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Oh here in Newcastle? On the holidays? On Saturday night they get a priest here around the Easter to hear confessions in Italian.

Mrs. Manetti: Palm Sunday.

Interviewer: Palm Sunday, before Palm Sunday.

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: All right. Now did you ever have any clubs here that were for the Italians? An Italian club?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah.

Mr. Manetti: Not before.

Interviewer: How long ago did they found the first Italian club here? Did they have The Sons of Italy or anything like that?

Mr. Manetti: San Gabrieno.

**[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Okay right now there are two Italian clubs in Newcastle. There's St. Anthony's and St. Gabriel?

Mrs. Manetti: Right.

Interviewer: Now St. Gabriel is Sons of Italy?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Sons of Italy? And St. Antonio?

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: It's not a Sons of Italy club though is it?

Mrs. Manetti: St. Anthonio...

Mr. Manetti: I'd say it was a little world Italian. It was an Italian club.

Interviewer: All right did you ever belong to any beneficial organizations or any political organizations or anything like that?

Mr. Manetti: No, not belonged to that at all.

Interviewer: Okay. Now when prohibition, prohibition started a long time ago. How did that affect community here? Prohibition?

Mrs. Manetti: What do you mean?

Interviewer: **[Foreign language]**

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

**[00:25:12]**

Interviewer: When you came were there any bars when you first came to in country?

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: I mean were there any **[Foreign language]** Okay now Prohibition, this is what I want to know. When prohibition started what effect, if any did it have on the Italian community here? Would you say it had any effect at all?

Mr. Manetti: No.

Interviewer: Most of the Italians here made their own wine?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, yeah we made wine. Yeah.

Interviewer: But Prohibition didn't have any effects at all?

Mr. Manetti: Not for the wine.

Interviewer: No, you couldn't get beer unless you want to make your own.

Mr. Manetti: No whisky.

Interviewer: But you could have your wine?

Mr. Manetti: You had to make it yourself the wine.

Interviewer: You had to make it yourself? Right. Did most of the Italians make their own wine?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, yeah. Most of Italians made their wine.

Interviewer: Okay fine. When the depression started, what effect did it have on most of the people in this area? What effect did it have on you? The depression.

Mr. Manetti: The depression.

Interviewer: Did you lose your job during the depression?

Mr. Manetti: I always had a job, for one day a week.

Interviewer: One day a week?

Mr. Manetti: **[inaudible] [0:26:41]** for one week you get 16 cents.

Interviewer: One week you made 16cents.



Mr. Manetti: Yeah. No work, go work a couple of hours and go home. Depression got no work.

Interviewer: How did you make out during the depression?

**[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Pasta and beans or chicoria.

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: You just could cook greens and that was it?

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: In other words when you sat down to eat in those days it was just one thing, you either ate greens and that was the meal or like Nyoki and that was the meal or spaghetti and that was the meal, that was it? One thing. That's it we just didn't have it right. When Mussolini in 1923 started to come to power in Italy what did you think of this, what did think of Mussolini as a man?

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]** the people say Mussolini is all right.

Interviewer: All that you knew from what people said he was a good man.

Mr. Manetti: He was a good man.

Interviewer: He was doing a lot of good in Italy, yeah?

Mr. Manetti: Helped the poor people...

Interviewer: He was helping the poor people, yeah?

Mr. Manetti: Yes.

Interviewer: And so far as you know he was all right. But tell me did you know of any organizations in this country that supported Mussolini?

Mr. Manetti: No.

Interviewer: Did you ever hear of the Fashions League of North America? This was an organization, the Fashions League in the United States here well they

were black sheriffs they supported Mussolini and so I just wondered if you had ever heard of them.

Mr. Manetti: No.

Interviewer: No?

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: When you are here in America all you do is what you heard and.

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: He was good for the poor people, this is what they say? Okay how about your friends what did they used to say about Mussolini?

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]** everybody saw that Mussolini, good Mussolini, good Mussolini, oh, oh.

Interviewer: So when he turned bad everybody felt sorry?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, sorry.

Interviewer: Okay. Now did the things that happen in Italy when war broke up between Italy and the United States, World War II, you remember this?

Mr. Manetti: Yes.

Interviewer: How did that affect your life here in the United States?

Mr. Manetti: I don't know.

**[Foreign language]**

**[00:30:18]**

Mr. Manetti: No, no, no.

Interviewer: Your life was okay here it wasn't affected in any way at all by the fact that the United States and Italy were at war?

Mr. Manetti: No everything was all right.

Interviewer: Your life continued pretty much the same.

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, same.

Interviewer: Right, now when the war broke out is this when the depression started to disappear?

Mrs. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Right but...

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: But the depression ended when the war started is that it? Well, you said depression ended when the war started? **[Foreign language]**

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: In other words what you are saying is that with the start of the war the depression ended but by the same two compresses were so high and you still couldn't find things.

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah, yeah **[Foreign language]**.

Interviewer: Okay. Would you say that the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt changed things for you?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, yeah. He was a very good man.

Interviewer: Roosevelt was a good man?

Mr. Manetti: Bless. Yeah.

Interviewer: You liked Roosevelt, why did you like Roosevelt?

Mr. Manetti: Because you know for pension for old people.

Interviewer: He started pension for the old people?

Mr. Manetti: For the old people.

Interviewer: Right. So social security and...

Mr. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: That made life a little more secure for you?

Mrs. Manetti: Yes **[Foreign language]** do you know what I mean?

Interviewer: In other words Roosevelt made it possible for you to have a retirement pension otherwise you fear you would be in a lot of stress?

Mr. Manetti: Yeah, God bless.

Interviewer: If you were to think about it and think back on your life in this country and how it's been since you came here, what would you say has been the greatest change? **[Foreign language]**

Mrs. Manetti: In America?

Interviewer: Si, in America.

**[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: In other words you think that the greatest change in the United States since your arrival here were the changes that were affected by Franklin Denalo Roosevelt in the various policies to his social changes?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: Social security and services?

Mrs. Manetti: Yes, but very nice.

Interviewer: Okay. Have you ever desired to go back to Italy?

Mr. Manetti: If you want to go back?

Interviewer: **[Foreign language]**

Mr. Manetti: I like only for a visit but not to stay.

Mrs. Manetti: Because **[Foreign language]**

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

Mr. Manetti: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: No, have you ever regretted **[Foreign language]**

Mr. Manetti: **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: In other words, the only time that you were ever felt a little bit depressed was when you first came here?

**[00:35:00]**

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah **[Foreign language]**.

Interviewer: You had to get used to it.

**[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: It was a very difficult life in Italy because the farmer had to work hard and then the owner of the land always took everything.

Mrs. Manetti: My country before **[Foreign language]**

Interviewer: Just one continuous round off suffering in Italy and you never had enough to eat over there. Here it's always been a land of plenty and you've never wanted really for anything. You would say that the worst times you ever had here were no worse than the best times you had in Italy, would you say that? **[Foreign language]**

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah, you're right.

Interviewer: In other words you were better off here during your worst days than you were in Italy during your best days?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah, you're right.

Interviewer: Okay. Do you have anything else you'd like to add to this?

Mrs. Manetti: No, it's all.

Interviewer: Okay but there's one other thing I'd like to ask you. How many children did you have?

Mrs. Manetti: Four, two dead, two live.

Interviewer: Did they all go to school here in this country?

Mrs. Manetti: Yeah.

Interviewer: So they all went to school here, right? All in Newcastle?

Mr. Manetti: All in Newcastle.

Interviewer: Okay fine. If there's nothing else you'd like to add I think we will just conclude it here.

Mrs. Manetti: Oh yeah.

**[00:36:56] End of Audio**