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McHenry, IL

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O.k., could we start out by having you tell us a little about your father?
Where he was born.

He was born in Quashola, provincia de Vreya and that's in Piedmont. You
have that in here right.

And when did he..what did he do in the old country?

Well, in the old country his brother, Anthony, had a contracting business
of building tunnels through Germany and Spain and Italy. And this brother
was the older one and he was..he ran the works. And my father made his
money there that brought him to this country. And when he came to this
country he settled in Massachusetts. I think in Pittsfield because that's
where he met the Marcetti's. And he worked on tunnels. What tunnel now,
did they tell me? Some tunnel in Massachusetts's. And then after the
Marcetti's came to Marquette county, he followed them there. I can't tell
you what year but it was after that. My mother was born in Pittsfield,
Massachusetts and she came with her parents and her grandfather and grand-
mother, the Conolli's. They were there and they came to Negaunee or to
Eagle Mills or the Marquette whatever with their daughter and their son-
in-law, Phillip and Josephine Marcetti. See? They came there.

Now, where were the Canonfi's from?

Where what?

Where were the Canonfi's from?

They were from Tuscany. See, that's where my grandfather after he, I think
after he left the Crimean war, I think he was there working too on the
Massacararra, you know, the marble. And that's where he met them and I think

I don't know if he married my mother there or my grandmother there, or in Massachusetts. I don't know which. But I loved the Canoni's, they were a darling old couple. And grandmother, I called her grandmother, Grandmother Canoni would go in the store in Negaunee in the butcher shop and she wanted a veal bone to make soup and she couldn't speak English and she'd say, "29". Can you understand that? "30." and she'd put her leg up. She wanted a veal bone. I always remember my mother telling that. How cute it was. And they're buried in Negaunee. They're buried with the Marcetti's. Yeah, they're buried there too. They lived there and I can't tell you when they died cause I was..I'm in my middle eighties now but this was before me. So that would be your grandfather? Canoni.

No, wait a minute now. No, Marcetti's were my grandfather and grandmother. They were my great-grandmother and grandfather.

O.k. Now what did the Canoni's do?

I can't tell...they worked on Massacararra with the marble. They were all together.

Si, they were all together in the marble.

I see. Okay, and then what ...do you know when they came up to... Marquette?

...to Negaunee? Yeah.

They came with the Marcetti's. Now in what year I can't tell you.

It's about in the 1860's.

Long before my time. My mother was two years old. When they came up on the boat.

I think that was '64 or so.

Yeah.

Now, do you remember some of the details that they talked about coming up? On the boat?

Yeah.

Oh yes, they had to buy a cow in Detroit. They rented the boat and they bought a cow so that there would be milk for the...there was 20 Irish families and the Canon's and the Marcetti's were the only Italians. The rest were all Irish. And our god-fathers and god-mothers were all the Finnigans and the Pahadagan's and the what have you.

Oh, I'll be darned.

My grandmother and grandfather were the Gabriels. Morris de Gabriel was cashier of the bank in Negaunee and his mother and father were my god-father and god-mother. They went back to Italy. The Shebodi's, you heard about them, yeah, they were all nice, real nice people in Negaunee. Degera's you met any of the Degera's?

Mmm hmmm.

Lucy Deguirra's a charming woman. She was 88 years old and still very active. And her son I think is fireman, the captain of the Fire Dept. Francis Marcetti, or Francis Deguirra. And there's Dominick Deguirra and Peter Deguirra was in the insurance business. He worked in the bank before it went flat in 1930. And then he went in the insurance business and he did very, very well. He died. He was married to a girl from Marquette. What was her name now? Pa, do you remember Peter Deguirra's wife's name? From Marquette? No, what was Peter Deguirra's wife's name from Marquette, do you remember?

No.

Oh, I got it right on the tip of my tongue. But he was an ambitious, smart boy. Very nice. The Deguirra's and we were raised together you might say. But when I was first in school when I was a little girl, I didn't know that we were Italians. Because, you know, there wasn't any of them around then hardly. And when one family came with a couple little children, I said to my mother, "Oh, ma," I said, "There's a Dego family moved in." She said, "What?" I said "there's a Dego family moved in." And she said, "Don't you

dare say that! You're a dago yourself." Or something to that effect.

I didn't know, you know, because there wasn't then but the Deguira's after and the Shebodi's, then we were all friendly with them. My mother was the Italians all loved her. She was real nice and kind with everybody. Real nice.

Now they moved, when they got up there they moved to Eagle Mills.

When they got to Eagle Mills, I think it took two weeks, I told you, to come up on the boat from Detroit, and when they got to Eagle Mills they had to hurry and cut down trees there and build some shack so that they'd have some protection. It was getting towards fall and cold, you know, so they would be alright, but where the cemetery is, now part of that was the Marcetti. They owned that. You said they owned west of there but they owned some of that, and they sold it to the city and when they moved the cemetery, the old cemetery down to the new one, my uncles Napoleon and Uncle Charlie, they supervised everything and moved the cemetery down there. But my mother was very happy that she was going to be buried there because she said she...after they moved up closer she said she played there when she was a little girl. So she like it very much. So they're buried there, and the Marcetti's and the

Canonis are buried there, and my sister, Mrs. Whitlock, in Chicago, wanted to buy a lot, she was afraid there wouldn't be room. So she bought another lot and then she turned it over to me and my sister Mrs. Hurwiss. And the Hurwiss's there, you'll Dr. Hurwiss, Richard Hurwiss. He was a dentist and his brother was a surgeon, physician and head of St. Luke's hospital in Marquette. They're all buried there but not that lot, that lot is for my sister Mrs. Hurwiss and her husband and for us. We're going to be buried up there.

So if you're around come to the funeral. I'll say "Hello! 98"

Well it won't be for awhile.

I still like to laugh.

Now what did they do when they first got up there? You know, what kind of jobs did they have?

Who?

You're...

My father worked at the blacksmith's shop because he couldn't speak any English. And then after he had a little store, a little grocery store there where the post office is, in the lower part of one of the buildings. There was two buildings there. And then I told you...no, first I think they had that saloon because I told you they owed 25 hundred dollars to the bank on the building and that drove my mother insane to owe the bank any money, so they started this little saloon and she took the second floor there and put tables up and had a kind of a restaurant and boarding house there. She was a wonderful cook and a wonderful worker. Hard worker. So when the minute they got the 25 hundred dollars paid up, they quit right away cause my dad was no saloon keeper. He was no fighter or anything, you know, he was quiet. And when the payday would be in and the lumberjacks and the miners start to come in and they'd all get in a fight, you know, and drink and get battling, and my father'd scream, "Marianne, Marianne" for my mother to come rushing down and she'd come down and pick up a stick a wood and boy they'd be out of there in a hurry. They were all afraid of her. Now you said when they arrived or at some early point, they homesteaded some land? Could you go into some details?

At Escanaba, they were at Defiance. Defiance was in ...what county is Escanaba in, Pa?

Delta.

Pappa? What county was Defiance in, Rock. Huh? Yeah, what county is Escanaba in that's...

Delta. Delta county.

Yeah, Delta. Delta's right. But they homesteaded 320 acres of ground there. And it was really wild. Really wild. My mother said she..they built this little house there and they built a barn cause they had to have horses and they used to store their groceries upstairs in the garage or barn. Whatever you want to call it. And she said what a terrible fire came through there and burned about 15 thousand dollars of their nicest trees. And she said she was up there throwing the groceries out in the wagon and they were hitching up the horses, and they had to go like mad with the children, the Judge and Mrs. Whitlock, my sister. And go as fast as they could to get away from the fire. Said it was terrible but..she said that was so terrible rough that she couldn't stand it. They didn't stay there very long. And my Uncle Pete came then from Quasola and he took over, he helped. See, he helped and he stayed there and finished the homesteading and he helped finish the homesteading in Gogebic up in Ironwood. Had 160 acres of mineral there next to the Noreay Mine. In Gogebic county. Ironwood. And after, after they finished that, T.M. Longyear wanted to buy it. And my mother was terribly, terribly against it. She argued for more than a year not to sell it. She said that's too valuable property to sell. And my father went to her father and told him that my mother wouldn't sign the papers to sell it so her father, Marcetti, Philip Marcetti came and said she wasn't a right kind of a wife. if she didn't go along with her husband and sell the property if he wanted to sell it. So she signed it. And she said when Longyear came with the papers, she told him right away, "I'm signing this against my wishes and I think it's terrible that my husband insists on selling it." So it wasn't long after when Longyear developed the city of Ironwood. See, we owned the mineral right under most of the city of Ironwood. And he paid my father 8000 dollars for the property, which my father at the time thought was a big deal. And after that, they said when he developed it and everything, he made a million dollars on it.

J.M. Longyear Company. And my father went up there to see it and when he saw what they had done and how they had developed this town, he was heartsick. My mother said he came home and he didn't talk for days. He felt so disgusted with himself. And he said to my mother, "Marianne, I'll never go against your wishes again. Never. Never." It was too late then Longyear's made the money on it. He thought 8000 was something and Longyear's made over a million. So that was the end of that.

Now did they actually...now they homesteaded land in Delta county...

Yeah, 160 acres.

But they didn't do anything with it then?

They what?

They didn't do anything with it. What happened to the land? Where?

In Delta county.

Oh in Delta county. I sold that after. After my father died I sold it in two 40's and one 40 and what have you. I didn't get a terrible big price for it but I sold it anyway. Course I never did anything without my brothers and sisters all being satisfied to, you know. See, the boys were gone and I was alone with my father most of the time and I knew most of his business. That's why he made me administrator. But I never ever sold anything without consulting them first and I've always done that, right along so we've always got along good.

Now what did they do with the land, is it just gorse?

Well, they farmed it. They farmed it.

And what? Pieced it out or rented it?

They what?

Did they rent it to farmers?

They rent it to who?

Did they rent it to farmers?

No, no, the people that bought it?

No.

No, we didn't rent it to farmers, we sold it. We sold it to these people. We didn't rent it to anybody until...we just left it there. Yeah, left it there and paid the taxes on it and I think my father sold a 40 or something before he died. I don't remember exactly, but I sold the rest after.

What did your father plan when he originally went there? What did he plan on doing?

With the property? Planned on developing and the lumber, see there was a lot of beautiful lumber on it. Sell the lumber. They lost 15 thousand dollars with the lumber I told you, when they had the fire. But he sold some lumber after on it and he just let it lay there. His idea was to pile up property. We used to argue with him, my mother'd say "Now you talk to him cause he'll listen to you more." I'd go after him my mother wouldn't say much. And she'd say he wanted to buy everything that came along cause he thought it was a good investment. Well it was a good investment. But at his age, he was getting older, and he couldn't oversee things like he should, and my oldest brother, the Judge was in Chicago and Peter had his family and Paul was in the service. When he came out he was Alderman for awhile and he organized the sailor and soldiers club that developed into the legion after. In the legion hall there, I think or...there's a picture of him. He was the first president I guess of the American Legion up there, Paul was. But while he was in the service he was a very smart boy, but he started drinking some and he developed Diabetes and he died then, after that. He married a schoolteacher from Marquette. 204 O'Riley and she died too, they both died. Then did he do anything with the property in Gogebic? Did he farm that or...

In Gogebic? No, no, he just kept it and he sold it to Longyear. See when my Uncle Pete finished the...I don't know how long they have to homestead it that place...

Five years.

How many?

Five.

Five years? Well, then he came back to Negaunee and he didn't stay too long, he went back home to Italy. And he died, he was killed or drowned over there. He had a...he was watering...they had a 20 acre vineyard there in Quassolla and they were watering...he was watering the trees or whatever with a can on his back, you know, with water can and it dragged him back into the river and the river was quite fluent and he was drowned there. We felt terrible. I don't I just barely remember him but he was a wonderful kind man. Everything or anything that he had that he helped my father with here he turned it over to us. And when he died then the 20 acre vineyard that he had in Quassolla, we turned it over to the city or the village to the people there. Cause we didn't want it. We weren't gonna go there. Where are your people from? Your father? Lombardy.

Where?

Lombardy.

Lombardy.

Yeah. ,,,

Oh, sure, Lombardy.

O.k., then you said your father got into running a store? Did he do that most of his life then?

Oh no, no. After he became Alderman, and after the saloon business and that, you know what he did? That property that we had in Negaunee, that mining property, he used to go down there and plant vegetables and he had some chickens

down there. He puttered that. He hired a hiredman to help him and my mother and I both used to say it cost more for the hired man then what he got off of it. The money he got from the royalties from the mine, well they bought some more houses. See, on Tech street there they bought. They owned the whole length of the street but two houses. And we used to get rent off of that, we had a bakery shop there. So my father after he made a little bit and was comfortable enough, he didn't believe in killing himself, he never believed... he said, "Save yourself."

Now I recently saw that you have the Burasa Iron Mining Company.

Yeah.

Now, that was started about 1890, I guess? They started working on it.

I don't know. That's before my time. I know that after I got old enough that I could understand I used to always see the men from Marquette, there was a Mr. Mack and a Mr. Bending and a Mr. Clark. Bending had that liquor distributing company there. I think Mack was a lawyer and I can't tell you what Clark was. Cause I was just a little girl. But I remember those names. And they'd all come to our house for their meetings, and my father always had a bottle of wine, a bottle of whiskey and whatever on the table. And while they were discussing things they could all have some. And one time, after a meeting, my sister, Babe, she was a year younger than I, we'd see them drink their terrible wine or beer or whatever it was, and say to the Burasa Mine, Babe and I, after they went out, my mother and dad were out in the back somewhere, we both started. And we got so sick that they had to get the doctor and they had to pump our stomachs out. I always remember that. We said, "Here's to the Burasa Mine, to the Burasa Mine."

Now how long did the mine...how long was it in operation? Did it ever produce any ore?

It did. Cause the first royalties we got, my father saved all the twenty dollar gold pieces for all his children. I wasn't born yet, not then, but I got the twenty dollar gold piece here yet, 1881. It's just like when it came. It's perfect. We still got that. So that...but how long they worked after that, I can't tell you, I remember going with my father in the cutter and our horse, and this old caretaker that we had, hired man, used to warm a couple of bricks and put them in the cutter for a keep our feets warm. So that we'd be warm. And I'd go down there with my dad and they were working then. I don't know how old I was then. I was about five years old so I was...that's about 1902 or '03 around in there.

Because I ran across...or a student ran across some information that they were reopening the mine in about 1907.

They were reopening it? Well, maybe they were.

It's kind of sporadic I think. They worked for awhile and...

You know what? There was always trouble with the Cleveland Cliffs because that G.M. Mather from Cleveland, he used to come there and I remember my father saying that one time he came down to where the fence was there and they were discussing it and G.M. Mather said, "There's no ore on that side of the fence.

The ore is all on our side." And my father looked at him and shook his head and he said, "Too bad I ever built that fence." They wanted the property. They wanted the property but they didn't...they did offer I think 400,000 dollars once. But the Marcetti's and I think my dad too turned it down. They were silly that they didn't take it and invest the money and then we'd have something worthwhile now with it. But we still got it there, it's there. Phillip Marcetti, you met Phil didn't you? He's a nice boy. And Frances, did you meet Frances?

No.

That's his cousin.

I think he passed away.

Huh?

Did he pass away?

No no no. He's living in Ishpeming. His wife...they lived you know where the Devies live, where...

Yeah.

Well, tne...she lives across the street. He's divorced from his wife. It's kind of sad and I know that he's living with this other woman but he's not married to her. And he called me the other night and it's the first time I've heard from him in a couple of years. Cause I was so provoked with him. I loved him, he was a nice boy. And he said he's so sorry and he said well, maybe we'll get it straightened out yet. His wife is a real good woman. Fine woman. But you met Janet and Put. The Frances? Well, his name is Frederick. He's in bad shape isn't he? I haven't seen him now for six years. He's very, I guess he's very...it's his heart, isn't he wearing a pacemaker.

I think he had a stroke too.

Did he have a stroke too?

Yeah. He kinda out of commission.

She doesn't write much. I sent her a bill for the taxes when it's time for 'em and she just pays her share but she doesn't see anything. And I have'nt been up there now in 8 ...7...no, 19...wait a minute...it's about 7 years. I want to go and he wants to go too but he's got a heart condition so that's why we don't go up. You know Mary Turiano? Mrs. Samuelson, she had...

No, I heard of her.

I like her very, very much, she's one of my best friends. Her father had the saloon on our property there after...I think Deguirra had it first and Turiano had it. Joe Turiano. You know, the woman from the Copper Country, she had

grey...Kate Turiano, well she's a relative of theirs. She's a relative of Mary.....

Turiano.

Mary, Mary, Mary, she's married now. What's Mary.....Samuelson. Samuelson. That's Kate Turiano, did Kate say to say "Hello" to me?

Mmm hmmm. Yes.

How is she?

She...good shape, real good.

She, I think she's older than I am.

I think she's in her 90's.

Is she really?

Yeah.

Oh, I didn't know she was that bad.
90-91 I think.

Well, I tell you the truth, I'm 87 but I don't tell anybody down here. Nobody knows. They think I'm the same as Pa. Pa is 84 going on 85. So they think we're in our middle eighties. Cause these little towns, you know, with all the blab, blab, blab.

Gee, you look real good. You don't look 87.
What?

You don't look 87.

Well I am. Pa's 84, he's gonna be 85 pretty soon. He looks good too. We don't have a lot of wrinkles. Well, that's ...

You got a real good fresh, fresh look on your face.

That's the good Italian blood.

Yeah. Now one thing I wanted to ask you here.

You what?

One thing I wanted to ask you about your father, do you have any comments or anything he did or how he felt about serving as an Alderman? Well that, you know, I don't remember all that that's...

He never talked about it? Later on or anything?

Well, to me, I wasn't interested, you know when you're a little kid you're not interested. But he lived until he was 83. And on his 80th birthday my mother died in 1917, and on his 80th birthday she was only 56. On his 80th birthday I had a big party for him out at the...near the cemetery there, where the Marcetti's had that little log cabin. Did you see that log cabin there?

Uh huh, well I guess they burned it.

Huh?

It's been burned.

Did it burn down?

Yes.

Oh, who owned that? The historical society.

No, they sold it to the state.

Yeah, and then what?

And then that fellow, Frank Matthews?

Who?

Frank Matthews?

I don't know him.

Well he's kind of a local historian.

Yeah.

He told the state to burn the house down.

Why?

I don't know.

Why burn them?

No reason.

Oh.

And here it was, you know, real historic if you had it now...

Oh oh

So it was destroyed.

I got a picture of it here someplace.

Yeah, yeah, I got some...

Have you got some to?

Yeah.

Oh, that's terrible. They burnt that down?

Yeah.

I think the state paid 25,000 dollars from Phil and Marianne. Marianne Devine is her sister. Did you meet her?

No.

No, just Phil. Phil is nice and Spud is a nice...I call him Spud, Frances. He's a nice boy too but he's in Ishpeming. His wife up there, she's right across from ...she would know, he's not far away from there.

They burnt that, got rid of it.

Well, that's terrible. They burnt that cabin down at park, pops.

What?

They burnt that cabin down at the park, you know, where the Marcs....

The bronze tablet?

Huh?

The bronze tablet?

Yeah. The state bought it.

It was right along the road. The old road from Marquette.

Yeah, but the state bought all that land for a museum. The state was going to put a museum in. A the park river there,

Oh, they are?

Oh, where the Marcetti's place, they're gonna put the...

Yeah, in there. Yeah, and...

They're gonna build a museum.

Yeah, and in the process here, they went and they burned they deliberately burned the cabin.

Oh, that's terrible.

Because one of the guys said it shouldn't be there.

That should be there. That never should be down. We used to...

Well that would have been a nice attraction.

We used to go down there and get the old fire going get a big iron kettle on and make Pulenta. Do you know what Pulenta is?

Oh, sure.

We had Pulenta and sometime the men would get rabbits and we'd clean those up and cook and cook 'em in wine. Boy, really have a feast there.

Sure.

We got a picture of one of those, haven't you?

Yeah. I got a picture. He said he's got some pictures.

But if you have some pictures I'd like to look at them.

I'll let you see. I got...where did I put these? You got that one of my father from Janet? Did she have that?

With your uncle.

With my brother.

Yeah, your brother, your brother.

My brother, the judge. That's my mother and dad when they got married.

Oh.

Yeah. Look at how pretty she was. She was a little blonde.

Yeah.

She was a Marcetti. The Judge had that so...I don't know when they...What dear?

Is that a daguerreotype?

No, it's an early one though.

Huh?

It's early.

You got this one.

Yeah, this...but this is in a better...

And that's my mother.

Boy this is real...

And that's my mother with the Judge and my sister Mrs. Whitlock. That's when they were down at the Delta county.

Oh, so that would have been about what year do you think? When they homesteaded.

Well, now look, the Judge was 20 years or 18 years older than I. And she's 2½ years younger than him. Josephine. She was Josephine named after her grandmother.

So, hmmm, the 1870's? Probably?

Pa?

He interested in that family picture?

Yeah, in the bedroom, bring that out.

Let's see this, wait a minute, let just (crackkkk) Yeah, could you tell us a little about Chabotti?

Oh you wouldn't want to print it. Only that he was...he had this store, his wife was a very quiet nice woman, he had three nice daughters and he got to be quite a big shot. He thought he was, you know, don't print any of this now, whatever you do. And he used to always go around, you know, 435.

He'd always have a calender with a girl on it with big brown eyes. And he'd have 438 down in Michigan! U.S.A., America. Hay, Grain and Feed. Grocery and Provisions. Italian Consul of the Upper Peninsula, he was Assistant someway Italian Consul. And he walked down the street, everybody die, he really, he

never harmed anybody. he's just cute, you know. And when my brother-in-law, Dr. Hurwiss camethere he knew that he was married to Babe my sister, and he went up there one day and he said he came in and the girl called the doctor to come out, he said, my brother-in-law, he'd say, "Who are you?" "You don't know who I am? You don't know who I am? I'm Felicci Chabott!! I'm consular of the Upper Peninsula." "And he said," "I know who are, you're married to Sarah Finchi." She's a good girl Carmen and Sarah, Finche, they're finest girls. You know don't make no mistake! And, oh, he talked on and Doctor was busy; cause he had a wonderful practice. And he was an oral surgeon too. Anyway, then, it's like an appointment, and my brother-in-law said, "Yes" and he said, "What's your name," "Felicci Chabochi" "How do you spell it?" "YOU don't know how to spell it?" "O.k. goodbye!" And he walked out. Mad because he didn't know how to spell Chabotti. I don't think he ever came back again. But everybody used to laugh. And you know what? On the Columbus Day, oh, that was a big day up there. Big day, parades, and everything. He'd start heisting a few before breakfast and by the time he was ready for the parade and his horse, he was half tied, you know, and he'd drag a curtain off the window in the living room. His wife would get some mad and throw it over the horse and get up there and down the Iron street he'd march. And he got down, oh, they had the band, the Italian band, out, and when they get there to the bench then, I don't know if it's still there or not, . Behind the city hall? Behind the city hall.

Yeah, it's still there.

Yeah, he'd get up, make the first speech, he said, "Columbus...

Cristoforo Colombo! He come to this country. (I forget what year it was) We much proud Italians! You no like it, Goodbye!"

Some kid by the boxcar there hollared, "Dago!" And he jumped off of the bench there and ran down looking for the..."I give you

Dago!" He said. Everybody used to just scream. And his wife would get so mad because she ~~my~~ was nice and quiet, and the

girls were nice too. One is a teacher or was a teacher in Detroit and one married one of the Degabrell's. I think she

died and Mrs. Deardi, she died. They ran the store, they had a store up the end of the street. There, ~~from~~ Iron St. Where it's all caved in ~~is~~ now.

Mmm hmm. Mardred?

Chabotti's had a store.

Oh. The Chabotti's did. But you said the Degutra...

Huh?

No, who'd you say? You mentioned some person here.

Oh, wait a minute now. My mind sometimes. Secundo Yoleta, he's got a store now.

Oh, ~~the~~ the Deoleta's.

Yeah, but his father was a musician and he was head of the band.

Not the head of the bank, the head of the band.

The band.

And they got the band out for everything. And I remember, one time on a Sunday, it was in October, my sister, Mrs. Whitlock died on her 47th birthday. On October the 21st. And the Sunday was the funeral and that was just a couple of days after,

and the Italian society was having their meeting there and my gosh, I looked out the window, here comes the Italian band and the Italian society marching up the street for my sister's funeral. I...we can't have that! So the man came in, I forget what his name was, now, the head of the head of the society.

I said, "Oh, Please, please," I said, "You can all come up ~~the~~ to the church if you want, but I don't want any music any men or no marches." I said, "Please don't parade up the street.

Come to the funeral if you want. I don't want any music or anything." Cause I almost died when I saw the Italian band coming and the society with their ~~the~~ flags marching by.

Now did your father belong to any of those societies?

Well, I'll tell you the truth. My father wasn't too interested in in the societies. He thought when you're in America you're American. And you're not Italian anymore. If you're in American you're an Americans. So he wasn't too...but they all liked him and they all respected him and when they were short of money, you know, before the interest was due, they'd come and borrow from him. And my mother'd get so mad, she'd say,

"Why does he have to give them money two or three days or a week before the interest is due because we maybe have to draw from the bank ourselves." But he did it all the time. He never say no to them. B Onee in ~~xxxx~~ while some one would come and...but that Mary Turiano ~~xxxx~~ in Negaunee, you know, Mrs. Samuelson, she's really a nice person, really nice, if you ever

go near her tell her that I told you to come and see her.

O.k.

Her father ran us when we sold the buildings to the government, her father had the saloon there. And he moved over on Iron Street. And then he died after. And Mary helped him in the saloon for a long time. Mary's a lovely girl. Lovely. Now they were all related then to the Turiano's up in...

Yeah, in the Copper Country.

..in the Copper Country. Now did you ever run across the Lissa family?

The Lizza were good, old friends. My goodness, Jim Lizza and my father. He was a real Italian Consular wasn't he?

Mmm hmm.

And which one of the girls you said is alive?

Angela.

Huh?

Angela.

I don't remember her. Irene, I remember her and Mrs. Banditini was the oldest sister.

Josephine?

Was she Josephine?

The two oldest ones were Julia and Josephine.

Julia and Josephine. I remember Julia too. Cause we used to go up there once in awhile. And when they'd come to Negaunee, they'd always come to our...and they were sort of related to Mary Turiano's mother. I think Mary Turiano's mother was a niece of Mrs. Lizza. They were a very nice family, wonderful family. And the Deprado's in Iron Mountain were wonderful people. He was a very smart man. Could you tell me a little something about him? We don't..we have some information about him but not too much.

About whom?

About Deprado.

Well, I can't tell you too much. Only that he'd come to Negaunee. He was pall-bearer to my father's funeral. And when my mother and then died they always came, he and the Calvi's and the Zio's,..Zio's and who else? Oh, big guy, I can't tell you his name. We used to call him "Ollyoopa." They'd always come up to Negaunee and when we knew they were coming we had a feast for them all the time. They wanted Pulenta. We had Pulenta, and Mulush, you know what Mulush is? Mmm hmm.

Your father liked that too? I love it. And Mrs. Turiano, Joe Turiano's wife, always make a big kettle of chicken for me. She'd help me cause I was...my mother was gone and I was young then, you know, and...but believe me, I started to cook when I was young. I had to do it. With a big family.

So all of these people then went back and forth. 600 Went back and forth, always back and forth. But I know my father and mother idolized Mr. Deprado. He was a very brilliant man and his wife was very nice. She was a Chicago girl. And when he married her of course he had a store up there, in Iron Moun...and he had a son, Nino. Nino Deprado graduated from, I think the University of Michigan, and he went out I think towards California and married some girl there and they had a chicken farm. One of the early chicken farms that they had out there. But I remember him because he'd come to Negaunee with his father sometimes too.

Now he's still alive.

Nino. But I don't know where.

In Pennsylvania.

Is he in Pennsylvania?

Parksburg, Pennsylvania.

He is?

Yeah. I called him...got ahold of him...

How did you get all these names?

Well, the thing was...Were there, up in the Negaunee area up there, were there any Italians into farming?

Farming?

Yeah. Not much of that.

Oh, no farming. They were all miners.

All minors. And, like, would your father and the Marcetti's be considered...were they pretty much considered the real Old Italians up there? I mean they had been there so long?

They were the oldest I guess. Aside of those names you had that I never heard of. Were they sort of removed from the rest of the Italians like you said your father was. Well, my mother being an American and the Marcetti's, they were not real close with any of the miners that came in there. But my mother was very, very well-liked by all of them. And she was always friendly with everybody. They used to come to her, Mrs. Deguira was gonna have a baby, and they pushed my mother in the wheelchair over there to be there when they needed her. She was always helping. Was she a midwife?

No, no, she was just to hold her hand. Help them out.

Oh. How would you characterize the Italian women and the type of life that they had to lead?

Well, they worked...they were all hard working. Their husbands working and they were all nice though. And I used to mix with all of them. Whenever there was a picnic or anything, I'd always go. Always go. And they organized the Order of Druids. And the password to get in was...what was it now? What was the password to get in? To the meeting, when they had the meeting. Something, anyway,

and I didn't remember when I went to the meeting I rapped on the door and they said something about password in Italian and I said 668.

(other side)

...kind of more, well you know, and I learned to speak Italian sitting on the sugar barrel in Deguirra's store. And believe me, I came home with some nice things to tell my dad once in a while. Boy, he stopped me from going over there. You know, when they'd come in on payday and swear and that, I had all the things down fine. So he said, "You better stay away from there!" And when they had the picnic, you know, and they'd all sing in Italian, I'd join in, boy! Z I still remember when the Chicago folks come out and I'd sing some of those songs for them, they just about died.

Would you want to sing some for the tape?

Huh?

Would you want to sing one for the tape?

Oh no, you don't want me to sing one for the tape.

Oh yeah, I'd want you if you want to. Go Ahead?

10 (La Canta del Cukoo) Did you understand it? And the girl is in the window waiting for her sweetheart. And she's looking up and down the the street and her cuckoo comes out and sing, it's the month of May, See, 15 She's waiting for her sweetheart and then the Cuckoo sings again. But when the folks come out and they'd call me Cuckoo, too. We always had fun though, when I lived with my brother after my mother died, and the neighbors said they used to leave the windows open because they could hear us all eating out dinner and laughing.

We'd all be around the...and Catherine, Mrs. Renella's got a laugh that you can here from here to Marquette. I wish you were gonna see them. They're gonna be... I got king of excited when you called and...I didn't know, but they're gonna be here tomorrow.

Now did your family speak Italian at home?

No. My father never allowed it. Cause he said we're Americans and I...he learned to speak better himself too. And my mother, she couldn't read...speak any Italian when she married him. She studied after. And could read and write it better than he could. She...and used to write letters to his family and everything. She'd write more than he did. But sometimes his English wasn't so good and my mother'd say, "28, you'll never learn." "Baptiste you'll never learn."

Then the Marcetti's also didn't speak Italian?

No, no, I don't think any of them can. Or ever...no, none of them. I think I'm the only one in the bunch that...and my brother the Judge, he studied at the University of Michigan. And Catherine, my niece, she had Italian lessons from Tito Roppo. The brother of Attilio Roppo, the Opera singer? They used to all come to our house pretty much in Chicago. But she cantspeak. And of course, mine isn't perfect. Because there were alot of Piedmontese's there, you know.

And mine was a combination of Piedmontese and Tuscany. But I'd always get by any way. Ed was with RCA? He was District Manager of the Electronic Department, we used to go to all the conventions. I think we had 22 conventions a year.

And there was Italians that came from Italy. And they'd all yell for me to come because they couldn't speak any English. And one came from Pennsylvania, and his wife, they could speak English. But the minute she'd see me she'd say,

"Oh, my Piedmontese! 43" Cause they were Piedmontese's too. And she'd come over and kiss me and her husband...they were real Piedmontese, you could tell by looking at them. But we've met some very, very nice people. I'd say 46. Nobody to talk with. I can't talk Italian to him. And there's no Italians here. And in Chicago, when we go to the opera or something, we'd meet my brother of course, knew everybody. We'd meet alot of Italians there, but the rest of the family, now they don't speak Italian. And they always laugh when I get started.

So you learned it then from the store. Sitting in the store.

Yeah, and trying to improve it some myself. Like a girl brought me from Italy a

book..a dictionary. Italian and English and I tried to improve it some myself but if there was someone that spoke real perfect I would learn faster because I pick things up fast. But in Negaunee it was mostly all Piedmontese's you know that. Mostly all Piedmontese. I don't know who else is there now. Outside of Mary Turiano and the Deguir^{ra}'s. Lucy Deguir^{ra}'s a very nice person. You never met her.

No.

That's Francis, at the firehall, his mother. She's 88 years old. Still going good.

Does she live there by ...

Yeah, she lives there.

No, no but by Mar~~Betty~~? By Phil?

No she lives on Peck Street. Not Peck Street, Pioneer Street. You know where you go in to Mar~~Betty~~'s there, you go thru the alley sometimes?

Mmm hmmm.

To Phil's house?

Yeah, and she's right across...

Well, right straight down the alley, straight across the street. Look, go and see her. You'll like her. Lucy.Tell her Carmen said for to go and she her. Lucy Deguir^{ra}. She came there. She's Piedmontese and she came, I think when she was 17 or 18 years old and she married ~~Baptiste~~ ^{Batista} Deguir^{ra}. And he died with a heart attack after. And she raised her two children alone. They had a little store and she ran that with her daughters. She's had plenty of chances to get married since but she never did. She was quite young when he died. Nice, nice person.

I think she told Phil that she'd like to do an interview,

Oh talk to her. Tell her that I told you to come and see her.

Yeah.

Tell her you came here. She came here one time with her sister-in-law from Milwaukee, but that sister-in-law is dead. She died last year.

But give Lucy my love cause she's a wonderful person.

Yeah, sure. So do you think you're gonna get back up there on a trip?

I think in a box cause that's the only way I'm...

The only way?

I'm afraid. I'm afraid. The only way we could go up is on the airplane but Ed likes to have our car when we're there so we can do what we please, you know. And he's not too good either so..I think we just have to be satisfied. If there was any way of us driving up, we'd go but..you can't go now, eh Pa?

What?

That's too far a trip now for you to drive. I said it's too far a trip for you to drive up there now. To Negaunee?

Well, I don't know.

I have to go into the bathroom.

Could you tell me a little about the Judge and his career?

Well, I know that he fought some wonderful cases. One in Iron Mountain where a miner killed another one with one of those pick, Pa what do you call those things?

Pickaxe I guess.

Huh?

Pickaxe I guess.

Yeah. And my brother freed him. And another one in Chicago I know that was written up quite a little was some man broke into a window and killed a woman or something. I don't know. And I think in that case he was freed. I wish Catherine was here, she could tell you more about that. But he was

well liked in Chicago. And he ran for several things that he didn't make. Everybody knew him. And knew his children. The children are highly respected. But the second, he's named after him, Bernerd, is a...what is he, Pa? On the Compensation Court. Buddy. Judge in the Compensation Court? Who Buddy? Buddy, yeah.

Illinois Workmen's Compensation. He's an administrative judge. Benny was associated with Mayor Thompson for...

Oh, that's what hurt him more than anything, my brother, he got involved with Mayor Thompson and that hurt him an awful lot. That's why he didn't make some of these things he ran for after. But the Tribune, McCormick said if he hadn't mixed up with Thompson that he could have been Mayor of Chicago like nothing. The Tribune was all for him until he got mixed up with Thompson and then...his wife was a Gazola girl, she was a teacher, and the Gazola Drug and Chemical is her family in Chicago. They're still there. She was charming. She was really an aristocrat. Beautiful. Everybody loved her. She was so...and she was president of the DePaul day nursery. And Catherine, my niece, was assistant City Attorney when she came out of school, and then she was president of the Women's Illinois Bar Association and president of the Service Club and president of DePaul Women's Auxiliary. But she's older now too and she doesn't do so much of that. But they go alot. They're very popular in Chicago. Very. And the children too. The two boys are...one of the boys married a girl that was a English teacher at the 125 high school. And I got a full page picture of her. Where is it now. Is that all he brought you? Do you want something else? No, no. This is fine.

I'll see if I can find it in here. I think it's in here. I wish you could

come sometime when they're all around.

Yeah, we'll have to maybe plan it.

...Chicago of Italian descent?

What?

Did you tell him that Bernie was the first Judge in Chicago of Italian descent?

Yeah, I it's in that magazine, that little wooden man.

Is it under that?

Yeah. It's in there.

Yeah, I put it in there.

When he finished Ann Arbor, he came to Chicago, I think he had a year or two more to go and he went to De Paul University and then he got in with the Italian Consul. You had that in that little wooden man too. With the Italian Consular. That's in there. And that's where he got to know...well he was a real mixer with the Italians. Better mixer than my father would be. Cause he went all over and he met 'em and he'd join every society that they had and...

Now did he speak Italian?

He spoke beautiful Italian. He studied at the University of Michigan.

Oh, oh, that's right. He didn't speak it at home.

No, no, no.

What he learned was...

He learned there and he was to make speeches a over in Italian. He spoke real good Italian.

Now, didn't he spend some time in the Copper Country?

He went up to the Copper Country when he finished high school and he worked, I think he worked a year or so for Seagull, I think it was Seagull, to earn money to go to the University of Michigan. I think he went up there on his vacation one summer too. Couple of summers. But he just went up there to work in the store and to earn money so that he could go to Ann Arbor.

Cause my father, there was six of us, you know, well, my father wasn't too much for them going to college. He thought you could work like he did you know, like alot of the others and still advance. But it was the best thing that happened for the Judge. To go there. And my sister, she was two and a half years younger, she just about finished school and then she married a Neilli from Neg...she eloped with him. Cause my mother and dad were terribly against him. He was from good family, nice family in Negaunee, but he drank alot. And his family were disgusted with him too. So she was only 17 years old and I guess he was 35. She went up to the Copper Country, a judge was working up there then, and they got married. He didn't try to stop 'em cause he said they were going to get married anyway. But she didn't...his father then got him this...the man she had married got him a job with a stove company because he had a hardware store in Negaunee. And oh, half the time he was drunk and didn't work. It didn't work out. She got a divorce from him. You want to take...

I'm gonna feed the ducks.

You go with him. You want to see the ducks?

O.k., yeah.

Go, leave this here then you can....