

Guido Gentile

Hurley, Wisconsin

9/17/81 (copy)

That's what I'm doing. I'm a folklorist.

A what?

A folklorist. I study traditions that we all learn not from books they pass it along....things like the recipes that you learn ...how you learn...people learn to cook from their mothers and...

On, that's good.

...and how you 7 this idea of people getting together in groups and stay together. I study especially ethnic groups 8 that means the Italians, Americans and Norwegian races and what I'm interested in your group for is I also have studied reunions before. Family reunions and other kinds of reunions and I kept noticing your announcements in the paper. And there's a American-Italian Historical Association that's going to be meeting at the end of October in St. Paul, and I'm going to give a presentation on Quatro Bruzzi.

Good. maybe I can get an invitation to go there myself if I know the dates...yeah..

Yeah it's in October, it's at the end of October...so I'm going to just give a little presentation on the past...the Platte Mutual Benefit Association and then what you folks have done with the revival of it...with the reunion.

Yeah, ok.

So, I'm interested in alot of things. What I'd like to start

out with, before we actually get in to the reunion, and I did this with some of the others that I talked to one evening over at the Bell. We didn't get a clear tape because there was alot of, you know, juke box noise and everything. But I started out with the history of each of the families when your...did your parents come over?

That's right.

And where they came from and when they came and why they came and how they got to Hurley and...

Oh, that.

Do you have that story?

I don't have that storyright down pat, but the people from this...our town in Italy...

And which town were you from? Capestrano?

Yeah, Capestrano...there's x number of these people that came over. You see, my dad came over, I don't know, '15 or '14, something like that. First. And after he...he had a job or something like that then he went back and got married and brought his wife over. My mother.

Oh, he went back to get married.

Yeah. I think alot of these Italians did that.

And she was also from Capestrano.

Oh, yeah...yeah

Did she...did he come first to here to work and then go back or was he somewhere else.

No,no, he came here.

And where did he work?

Well, I guess he had a, I guess he had a job in the mines. In those days that's all they had around here was the mines or lumber. One or the other. And they came back here, then he started working in the mine then he went out to the farm. Oh, he did.

On, yeah, that's a little farm up north, there's where I was born actually. On the farm.

Why does he decide to do that?

I don't know, he just didn't care much for the mines, I guess, underground...and when he gets that claustrophobia or something like that.

Sure. Yeah. So what did they do? The dairy farming then? They were farming awhile, you see, in...back in Italy, they don't have individual plots of land for your garden they have what you call a community 37 or 37 or something like that, two 40's and each one has a small lot, that he can plant his own personal vegetables. And each one, we'll say $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre not even...less than half an acre. But each one has their own pride and joy of seeing who has the best of the produce. And that's how he could be a good farmer out here, see. So not only my dad is, all the other people were the same in in their same boat.

Yeah, so they tried...and that didn't work? Did you stay on the farm?

No, no. then he came back here and then he went in business. He went in oil business and thing like that.

Oil business, you mean...

Yeah, oil business. Supreme Oil Company he started. My dad did, yeah. And him, two-three other Italians.

Oil for houses for heating.

Yeah. Mostly gasoline in those days, yeah. Nobody had oil heat in those days. Not in 1920's and all that. What they had in those days is coal.

So then how did this distributorship get started? Is that your own business?

Then when 1933 when they lifted the beverages, you know, for beer, he and two other Italians, my uncle, my other uncle went in business for...the beer business and they had 53 up in the...and that's the beer they had. And of course, that continued on until the service, and just before I went to the service, my dad got killed in 1942. In a train accident. And then I went to the service, my other brother went to the service, Ted, and my brother Nick, well, he took care of the oil business and then my mother took care of the beer business. When we came out then we bought her out. The three boys. That's how we started then, from...might as well say from scratch, to, you know, this day, yeah. Of course now, in the beer business, my two sons have that. That's Mike and Roger, and then my other son, I have three sons, my other son is the oil business on the 61 .

Is your wife an 62?

No, no. My wife is English.

So you got mixed up once you got...

Yeah, well you see the way they work it, this Bruzzi's here, anyone, like our father came from...or our parents see,

64 mother or father...they came over from Bruzzais Province or region they call it, can go to our banquet. Now, the third generation, it didn't make no difference if both your parents were Bruzzais or not. Just so one was.

And just men, no women.

I see.. No women. Why do you think that was?

Well, that's what they had before. And then, of course, we...when we have our banquet or something like that we... everybody tells a good joke.

Oh, you don't want the women around.

No, we don't want the women to...in fact, we chased the cooks and the waitresses and everything else out of there...of the women we have it, oh, yeah. I know we've been getting alot of flack from alot of these women, they want to come too.

Maybe someday in the future, if we had something, but you see right now we have no money at all in the treasury. Whatever we take in, we spend out for food. And the Balshelai really gave us a good meal this year. They had ten course, Italian food. Nothing but Italian food. And all you could eat!

Oh, well anyway, then we had the...and then it's a dollar and a half per membership, you know, per person, per member, but...

How did you decide the membership fee?

Well, the expenses that are there. See, I had to buy a new flag and I had to buy a registrar book and all that so...

So you just decided this when you...you're in charge of this so you made all these decisions.

Yeah, that's right. But for next year, I think were going to have to charge a little more, and we try to get some kind of a...something to give to someone, like a...well, most of your organizations have to give to a...handicap or something, you know. But if you have no money in the treasury you can't do it. But next year I think we're going to have... we're going to get some money some way or other.

You want some charitable reason for meeting.

That's right. Yeah. And then next year I think we're going to have one of the...person from Milwaukee, his name is Ted Mazza. M-a-z-z-a. And he's the head of the United National Italian Civic Organization. He's going to be our main speaker next year.

You've got that set already?

Yeah. I got it right here, the letter right here. All I have to do is verify it, that's all.

How...when were these decisions made? About what you were going to do next year and who was going to speak?

Well, we have a little committee.

Oh, you do have a committee.

Yeah, yeah. And we talked it over.

How is the committee chosen?

Well, we choose at random, right then and there, you know, it... Volunteer?

Volunteers, some of them volunteer, some that are local because last year we had some from out of town. And of course, they couldn't do nothing cause they're out of town. But next

year, I think we're going to have as little...little something to create a little fun for the company, that's all.

For the organization. How this all started was with really Alphonso and Albert Consentini and Pat Fonteccio, they meet once in a while or every night up at the Liberty Bell up there, yeah. And Fino Consentini too. Yeah.

Well, anyway, they were talking about getting, not all the Bruzzi's, just some of them, you know, and have a little meeting, or a little get-together. So they started asking different people, pretty soon they got asked this and asked that, then they got involved in Iron Mountain, you know they send...last year they sent 10 this year they sent five.

Now they want to have one down there. Fine, then we'll go down there, you know. And that's get bigger and bigger and bigger. This year we had 70 people there. Seventy. That's the third generation, too. And next year, I think we're going to have a little more than that because we're going to have...it's going to be a fund-raising program, too, so...

So, it just got bigger because they found out more and more people wanted to do it.

Yeah, that's right.

So how did you locate all these? How did you know where everybody was?

Well, I got the addresses here now, you see, when they sign, when they come, they have to sign the registrar here. And now I got the addresses here and everything, see. So...

How about the first year? How did they find these people? Well, that was up to the committee and they did a good job. We had the... like this one party here, it's a while, we'd contact the people, the parents, and they tell us where the kids are. Like with here, This is Father Reynaldo. He's in Milwaukee now, he's the one that main speaker, Ted Mazza. So, then we got people from Wheeland and then we got people from outside of Chicago, there, Giancola's, then we got people from all over. Yea, they come here. The Vicicci's, one from Florida, one from Chicago. They come up, oh, yeah. But they...I think it's a good thing but we should have started this right after the war.

Why didn't you?

We didn't think of it. Nobody brought thing up until you're starting to do something, then everybody brings their pictures and this and that. You know that Fonteccio, up there, Liberty Bell, he says he going to put a big mural on the wall, on that picture that you have.

On the picture, sure, yeah.

That would be something.

That'd be nice. You need to copy that picture so it's preserved because it'll eventually 133. So now, all these people come, weren't necessarily ...their parents--fathers, weren't necessarily members of the original club, right?

No, no. That's right.

How did you decide that? Why did you decide to expand?

Well, cause the generations are slowly...the original generation, I don't think there's any left. The people that came from over at Italy. Just the second generations' left. So we figured might as well get everybody then. And eventually, word passing word next...whoever's next in line. Then our sons can take care of that.

But they all have to be from those provinces.

Oh, yeah, oh, yeah. They can't go from no place else.

No other Italians, huh?

No other Italians. I know there's alot of Tyrols and 142, they all want to come. Can't do it though. Well, you gotta set the line somewhere.

So how'd you go about organizing this?

Well, first you had to have a place that's going to serve Italian food. Number one. And Fonteccio, up there, they guarantee us good. Then after that it's easy. You see, all you have to do is tell the people is--Hey! We're going to have nothing but Italian food. I wish I had that menu here, I would be able to...well, anyway, then mostly there's alot of Bruzzi's families right in this town here. Hurley, yeah. Then there's from a neighboring town, like in Jessville up in Ironwood. They have alot of people there. And next year we're going to have Girubesi's and the Scavetti's...we're going to have a half hour to hour of Italian songs. That's what we had last year.

I mean this past baquet. Yeah, they enjoyed that.

Do you remember your father belonging to the original organization.

Yeah, they had...

What did they do?

They had bands. Well, they collected a little money. And they give it to some people that are the poor people. In those days they had poor people. There was no social security; there was nothing like that. That was in the Twenties right after the war you know, in the first world war. And there were alot of poor people. We know. But that's what they did.

Do you remember your father going off to the meetings?

Oh, not too much, I didn't.

You didn't pay attention or...

No, we never paid no attention.

What'd your mother think of it?

But what-do-you-call, the Surrelli's did. Because, well, this Franks' really on the committee, he was telling me his dad couldn't wait to get to meetings.

Really?

He'd get his bandana, he'd get his hat and he'd get his sword and everything else, all set, oh geez...And now, we try to find that, you can't find nothing.

You mean you can't find any of the clothes?

Well, not the clothes but we had a couple of swords, yeah, yeah, swords, but no hats. I can't find no hats, nothing like that.

Like, you say Pete Ruzis has a badge?

Yeah.

Huh, that's good.

173 got one. I'm going to go take a picture of it. He's home now he said.

Good, that's good.

So we'll get a photograph of it. What did your mother think of your father going off to these meetings?

She didn't think nothing, yeah.

She never said nothing.

Well, in those days...those Italian women, all they did was stay home and cook and wash and things like that. Wash clothes, oh, yeah. There was no, there wasn't much 178 to go to a restaurant or anything like that. They, no. I don't think my dad and my mother went out to a restaurant in five years sometimes. Just to go to a restaurant and eat. That would be an occasion, you know. Of course, in those days, it's a little different than it is now. But then you get alot of these people from...talking about their fathers and their mothers and everything else, that's, that was really a...well.

Do they do that at the reunions?

Oh, yeah.

What are the things they tell you?

Yeah, anything, anything they can think of, you know, what happened they'd just bring it up. And of course there's alot of Italian jokes, you know.

Like what? Can you give me an example?

Huh?

Can you give me an example?

Well, I could. Like this Italian came over, he couldn't speak English whatsoever or nothing else. So he went up to Gioseppe's, says, "Hey, Joe," he says, "How am I going to go to a restaurant to get something to eat?" Well, he says, "That's easy" he says "all you have to do is say Apple pie and coffee." Okay. So he goes to this restaurant and waitress says "What'll you have?" He says, "Apple pie and coffee." Well, that went on for one week, two weeks, Luigi says "Hey, Gioseppe" he says, "Apple pie and coffee. I'm getting sick of Apple pie and coffee. Give me something else to eat." "Oh," he says, "Get ham sandwich." "Oh, good," he says, "Ham sandwich, ham sandwich." So he goes to the restaurant and the waitress says, "What are you going to have? What'll you have?" He says, "Ham sandwich." "White or Rye?" He didn't know what to answer, he so he says, "Apple pie and coffee." But of course, you put that in Italian, you know... Do you speak Abbruzzese?

Very little. But my mother was a 206, my mother, see. When she passed away, nobody says...nobody talks it anymore.

Do you read it?

No I can't read it very well, but I can talk it and I can do alot of things with it but...when we meet each other on the streets nobody says no Italian words.

How about your children? Do they speak any others?

No. I got a grandchild wants to learn but sometimes I don't even know what I'm talking about myself. But I her like Bonacetta's

you know, 216 and all that stuff, you know 217, Lawrencetta, Yeah. Everyday things.

Yeah.

Yeah. What all do you have in that case there? You've got a guest ~~xxx~~ book that you...

Yeah, this is the guest book here. So, this is 1981. This was 1980 here.

Does somebody keep minutes when you have these meetings?

No, we got it all in our heads. That's... Father Reynaldo sent that. I have all my expenses here and all that stuff. Then I got the... of course, you saw this map, now this is where Abruzzais, now people don't know where the province is. You see where Rome is right here? Now this is directly east of there, Yeah, right in there. There's four provinces in the region. That's what it is. That's why they call it Quatro. Quatro means four. Yeah.

Where exactly is Kapistrano?

Well, I don't know if they got it on that map there. Sometimes it... Is it along the coast or is it inland?

No, it's inland a little bit. See, my sister had some... she was there and she had some pictures. I should have asked her to bring some of those pictures. How these people lived. See, they live on the mountainside, most of them and one house is adjacent to the next house and up the hill, so in other words, if you're on top you can see down, you know, right into... oh.. I was never there myself but my sister was there and she was telling me about it. Then they had at that time, years back, they had one central water system, you know, it's like you had in the small towns around

here too, on the old farms and things like that. So I... they had it rough, that's why they left. They had it rough over there.

Do you know...was that...when your father came here and alot of people left, did he know somebody over here already?

Oh, yeah, yeah. You see, you send a person out first, you see.

And they say, well can you take so many 247 or immigrants?

And they says, "Yeah, yeah, we'll take 'em." Can work in the mines, yeah. They had somebody over here. Then they had...there was some of guys came over, they were lawyers, you know, over there and they got to be over here too. You know, you send people out in advance and then everybody gonna go, "Why we got a job." Before you could come over here you had to have a job. Or something or somebody' sponsoring you, something like that. So, that's why this area here, everybody, just about, we're all Abbruzzese just about. So, they're, used to come from Italy over here without knowing where you're going, in those days you couldn't do it. I know I wouldn't.

You don't know who came first?

No, no. Maybe Mr. ^{D. F.} Gerubis does.

I don't think he knows either. I don't think anybody ...kind of lost.

Yeah, I think he was mostly...I think he...I don't know if he was born in Spain or what, but he, yeah. But it's a good thing I think myself and then I...but we got to get more people ... the only way you can get everybody interested in it is when you start making the fund for something. Not for yourself, you know,

but for...to give to someone. Some, you know, high school person or anything. What you got is what it is.

Some cause or something.

Yeah. Something or...and I think there was alot of 'em were interested in that. They were, they...

Did you talk about that at your...did you have a business meeting?

No. We had it with the 274 , you know, when you get up there you tell everybody, "If you got any comments or remarks make 'em now." Everybody can hear. Then, when the committee meets, then they can take it, you know, as it goes. And every year from now on, I know we have to have a fund. Of some sort.

We've got zero balance in the bank. I've just come from there.

You went to check, huh?

Yeah. Just to make sure.

It all went for the meal then, huh?

Yeah.

The meal and postage and things like that.

Yeah.

So everybody paid for their own meal, you did a 283 kind of a price. What happened at the reunion? Can you describe the reunion to me?

What do you mean?

What happened? I mean how did go?

Good, it was very good, you see...

When you came, how did it...how did you do it?

When we got there, we have a cocktail hour, what do you want to call it, more or less get-together before, about 5 o'clock we

start. 5 or 4:30 we start get-together and for about two hours. So that's about 4:30 you start.

Yeah, yeah. Then 6:30 we have the meal. After we get the meal, then we have the open session.

And this was all those backrooms at the 292.

Yeah, we had the whole backroom ourselves, yeah.

The meal was buffet?

Yeah, that's right. Then they served...then they brought family style after that. First you went around, then they came over to all you can eat then with the plates they have. Well, like that Ravioli, yeesh, it was terrific, you know. Well, anyway, and after that, then we had an open session. For about two hours.

What happened at the open session?

That's when you discuss everything what you want to do for the next year.

So that's sort of like a meeting.

Yeah, it's like a meeting, that's what it is. Then after that...

That was two hours?

Yeah.

Wow! You brought alot of suggestions up, huh?

Oh, you know and then it's when they all tell jokes too.

Oh, that's when you chase the women away?

Yeah, that's right. And then after that then people get...you know, some people left from out of town that came and get acquainted with the other and things like that.

Then that was just mingling, right?

Yeah.

So how late did you stay there?

Well, until 12:30-1:00.

Nice long evening.

That's right. There were a pretty good host people, you know, Fonteccios', yeah, so... But you see, some places now, I'm supposed to get an invitation for Milwaukee down there, and they have it for the whole day but they take over like a golf course like, you know, like Ashland up there has industrial... remember that? They have that and that's what... we may come to that. To industrial or take over a golf course. And then you can have the families and all that during the day; outing and then at night, you can have your own banquet. I think that'll be more appropriate then...

So you're sort of shopping around for ideas.

That's right. We're still looking around.

You want to get bigger.

That's right. We want to make it just like they do in Milwaukee and different places like that.

Well that's great. And you're going to do it every year?

Yeah, oh yeah. Definately, yeah, it's started . Then of course, on the committee now we have two from the third generation. So they have ideas. And their bringing 'em up already. That's good, that's fine. Cause eventually, another year or ten years or five years we won't be here, most of us.

Did you have alot of participation from the third generation?

Oh yeah, more, more. And it's nice for them to get together too.

Because alot of them are in different professions now, you think you got the priests and we got lawyers, we got doctors, we got you name 'em, we got 'em all! This is my son, Rog.

Hi. Did you go to the reunion?

Oh, yeah.

Yeah, I was there.

Why did you go?

Why?

Yeah.

Cause I was invited.

Oh!

I hadn't been to one before so, you know, sounded like a pretty good deal.

When you grew up did you know you were Abbruzzese?

Well, not 349. No, not any 349.

You knew you weren't just Italian. You were something else.

Yeah, it was mentioned, you know, I mean, I wasn't...I'm not really on top of all that stuff, you know, so...

You betcha he will be...

He will, (ha, ha, hee) is that right? When you were growing up did you spend more time with the other Italians that were from the Abbruzzese than you did with say...

No, but, see up in Hurley here we had...either you were Finnish or Italian when you went to school. Of course, you know, but then you mingled with other people too, of course, but we were more or less...didn't stick together. We just went to school and that was it you know and it didn't make no difference.

But you're doing it now?

Yeah. Of course now it's all you got left is a few people that, you know, your age.

What else do you have in the box there?

Oh, that's about all I got in there, I guess. Oh, I'll give you this. (Rinnnnnggggg) Maybe you can have one of these and look.

That's what we did last year, see?

Can I get a Xerox copy of this letter?

Yeah. Here.

O.K. I have a copy of that. I've been clipping it out of the papers.

Oh, you have? Can't golf today.

Oh, it's a golf day, huh?

Did you take a picture of this? No, you...

No, I'll have to Xerox those. Can I borrow it to do that and I'll either bring it back to you or send it. I'll probably bring it back, I come over here once in a while.

Yeah, yeah.

But this is, now, this is stuff that I got from...do you think that's part of their badge?

You have me, I don't know.

Don't know....but, see, he's got this stuff there, and unfortunately it's not been taken care of very well. And of course the photograph is 391 Fonteccio's. ...that, and I'll bring that back today. But this is the original charter of the association and ...

Where'd you get this?

That's at the Ironwood museum. I made a copy for you guys.

Yeah? Good.

I've got it here.

Good, that's very good, yeah.

And look at that. Ray~~ne~~ Marine has that at the Ironwood museum. The envelopes and everything. So, you know, you see they're not being very well taken care of. They need to be preserved better. But then this...see if you can read any of this. These are minutes of the meeting.

Well, I know, ...

(mumble, mumble)

Can you read any of that?

I can read the names but that's about all.

It lists who attended.

Yeah, that's Luigi and Telasaco and...

Now that, of course, isn't the whole thing. That's just one... a few months of one year. And he doesn't know who's it was or where he got it or...he's knows where he got it. It was in the upstairs of 422...

Henry Spara would of had it. Of course he passed away.

Some store that was torn down.

That's pretty good.

Better bring that back, I promised Ray I'd bring it back in about a week but I made a copy of that for you too.

Good. I'll get somebody to read the Italian.

Can you get this translated do you think?

Yeah.

Now I don't know how well...the Xerox is pretty good. I don't know if you'd...I gave you a copy...I'll show you, that's what I made there. That's where the materials' available.

O.k., fine.

And then it would be nice if you could get a translation for those minutes.

Oh, I'll get somebody, yeah. There's a person up in Saxon, his name is Hugo Drullio and he used to belong to this organization. Oh, one of the original ones?

Well, he's a son. Of the people. But he was supposed to attend the banquet but he's sick. He ended up in the hospital or something.

That's too bad.

Let's see where do I have...28 very good letter..

Well you might have Pat Fonteccio look at it, too, cause he pretty well, doesn't he?

Yeah. 32 that's Peter Berullio.

Tricette, Triscola and,..those are card games right?

Yeah.

A most interesting Boss, do you know what that is?

Yeah, when you get with the people, you need four people or something like that, and whoeverwins designates who drinks. Sometimes if one guy was mad cause he wanted the drink, he didn't get no drink for about two hours, you know he left, he says "The hell with you people." They play jokes on people, you know I mean, that's how, if you win you can designate who should drink and who shouldn't drink.

You know one Kapistranese that's still living is Rosaline

Ginni's mother, Mrs. Stella.

Go out and talk to her, she's my aunt.

Oh, she is? I interviewed Rosalind about some of the Italian cooking around but Mrs. Stella was there but she's been kind of poorly so I didn't talk much. But she was talking about coming from Kapistrano in the early years.

She would know, she from...she's Abbruzzese, that's for sure.

Can I make a copy of this too?

Yeah?

What I'll have to do is take this back with me.

Yeah, that's alright.

Maybe next week sometime I'll come back over.

I was just wondering if you wanted some of the Italian names. You know like 54-59 he don't belong in there. But his mother is 60-61

Alot of Abbruzzese in this town aren't there?

Oh, yeah! 62-64 then of course we got some people from... the Reynaldo's, Scavetti's, you wonder where all the Italian names come from, eh?

Yeah, are they mostly Kapist^{ane}rese?

Yeah.

Mostly from that particular little village. That's interesting. Tell me something. Why did you spend all this time and bother to do this.

Well, I'll tell ya, I've always wanted to do something for somebody to be honest, cause I'm retired anyway now. So it don't make no difference. Then I have Dominic Santini help me too.

alot. He's selling tickets and getting people to come and all that. Then of course, Delphonso helped ~~xxx~~ quite abit. He's good at that. Of course we're all retired now, too. The reason though, actually is you want to know ~~h~~ your background. That's what you want to know. You see, that picture up there? There's my mother and dad, up there. Here, I'll show you.

I should take a photograph of you standing by that.

You see, here's my fathers' dad. This is our family...what ~~x~~do you call that.

I can't remember.

You call that whatever it is. And these are my two brothers. This is Ted this is Nick. In those days when they take pictures, they took good pictures. None of this...the framework and everything else is just something.

If I go get my camera can I take a picture of you with that?

Yeah, fine.

I'll do ~~that~~. Can we take it off the wall because of the sun coming in there? You can just hold it and I've ~~flash~~ got a flash that lights.....O.K...

Well,...

You were supposed to 95

Yeah, this is my other son, Mike..

Hi.

He ~~xx~~ looks more Italian than the other one.

Trying to carry on a business here and here we are...

Oh, ..

Yeah, I wish we had our picture taken like this.

Well, you know, you should.

We are next year.

You going to do that next year?

It's going to be definate. But you see, in those days, see the way ~~they~~ all these people dressed? Now when we had our banquet, nobody dressed in a suit.

They didn't, huh?

No, but if we had, something like you say, some emblem of some kind...

Do you know where your father is?

Let's see...don't want to get too far~~e~~ back, I can't see them. No, I couldn't see my dad, it might be up right in here someplace.

Yeah, that's hard to see. ~~That's~~ That's a nice folder card.

You know, you can have this enlarged, I think.

Is that down in Ironwood?

~~A~~Yeah. You know where Point auxll0 is?

No, not exactly. I think I could find that church.

Yeah, Here the firehalls, right here.

Oh. Okay, yeah.

You're looking down that way. See, this is the old store there.

This church you can notice that church from this church.

And this is the library right there.

Okay, then I know. So they were off for some parade and is that the Italian flag?

Yeah, I had Italian flag made and everything else and...

then a little bit ~~z~~ of that history is going to be...

Oh, you want ~~another picture~~ another picture of it?

I'll take another...did it flash that time.

Yeah. I know we got alot of people are interested in their ~~wown~~ provinces now. There's like the Tyrols. We got alot of Tyrols around. They're trying to get ~~together~~ together.

Is that right?

But all they have to do is get one man to do the work. Then start. Get the ball rolling then everybody'll fall in line. You know, you should see, when we had Italian days up at Eagle Bluff up there. And then when we had the Italian days here in Hurley years back. The reason why they gave it up was because of the motorcycle gangs.

I don't understand, who..

Well, they had the celebration right downtown here in Hurley. They had three days of it.

Yeah, they used to be called Dego Days.

Yeah, we had food and everything else on the streets and theres a tremendous drawing cart. We had parades and everything else. But then the motorcycle gang came up from Green Bay and from Milwaukee and different sections you know, and they practically took over the town. They didn't care what they say, they swore anything like that. So the town says that's it, no more.

That's sad.

If they could have ran 'em out of town right away, they could've people could've enjoyed themselves. They used to take alot of celebrations over that way but if they get strict right after

that then they can't come in then. But these motorcycle gangs. It's funny why they would even find out about it. Something like that.

~~They~~ They know about this because this one of the motorcycle gang, his dad lives in town here and he found out about it. But what happened, then they had a big accident just out of Hurley, about eight miles, where this guy with a big Cadillac, he was being harassed coming up this way thru Mercer, where this Motorcycle gang almost run them off the road. Well, this guy had a few drinks in him, and he was getting ~~madder and madder~~ madder and madder at him, so he went way ahead of him he stepped on it and he turned around right by this pylon, and he came back and this motorcycle gang was coming at him, there must have been oh, 20 or 30 or 40 motorcycles. He went right for 'em. Killed about five or six of them and people lost their legs, some of them, oh yeah, that was the worst accident I've ever saw. He went right for the whole motorcycle motorcycles were in the ditch and everything else. I saw that...I got there about ten minutes after it happened. Oh, how awful. I didn't know that. I didn't know that's why Dego Days stopped.

Yeah, that's the reason. Then of course, you know, you got to have volunteers too.

Well, it's like this, you guys are all volunteering for...

That's what I say, if you don't get volunteers you...

but that was one of the reasons not all of them but that's one

the reasons.

That's too bad. Well, is there something else you think I ought to know? About the reunion or the old group.

Well, next year it's going to be a little bigger, and I'm pretty sure that people are interested. You know, they seem that way anyway.

~~Wk~~Well, you sure had a good turnout.

Yeah, but I figured we should have been a hundred this year.

But we changed the date. That's one of the reasons.

That's right, I remeber that in the paper.

Changed it from Labor Day was supposed to coincide with the Hurley Eagle ~~xxx~~ 197 the golf course, but then that didn't pan out. We changed it and But now we got it for the second Wednesday in the month of August, so everybody knows it. That...

You going to let someone take pictures this time?

Yeah, outside. We would've had it all set. Except he ~~had~~ didn't show up that guy.

Somebody told me, I think it was Armand Serilli, told me that there was one person from Milwaukee that was taking pictures.

And that you would know who it was. Somebody that started with an L, Lappa? Labba? Do you know who took pictures? Just their own pictures, you know, just to have their own pictures? He took 'em but he doesn't have 'em anymore. They were for the newspaper.

Oh, I don't know then, I don't know.

Somebody from Milwaukee.

But from Milwaukee now this Giancola says, "You're going to let me know when they have theirs." Then we're going to go down and see what they do. You know, get ideas. Like you see, the one from St. Paul, there, now they had that, if you're let me know.

Uh huh, that's not a celebration. That's a meeting where people just give presentations and papers. So I don't know if you 217.

Oh no, no, I would enjoy it where they have an outing or something.

If they're having an outing, yeah. Well if I hear of any, I'll let you know.

Yeah, you let me know. It don't make no difference, I'm retired anyway. I can go anytime.

Sure, right, you ought to do that. That's what you're supposed to do when you're retired.

Yeah, yeah.

Well, if I do, and I might because they'll talk of some other things down at that meeting. This is just something, I'm going to present a presentation about it. And somebody else is going to...they'll be doing other things.

Yeah, I suppose.

Most are history papers. So there won't be much celebration. So, anyway, I suppose maybe I better go see if I can catch Pete before he takes off.

Yeah, very good. I'm glad you stopped in.