

Interview with Linda Marsiglio in Troy, Michigan, October 24, 1984.

RMM: This interview will deal with Italians primarily in Marble, Alabama. Linda could you tell us a little bit about the background of your family. What were the names of your mother and father? And where were they from in the old Country?

LM: My father was Sabatino Loungini and my mother, her maiden name was Stefanelli but she married my father.

RMM: Where were they from?

LM: They were from Traserra in the providence of Bolagna and my father then came to America in 1914 in December 1914 it was during the war of course. He was sent over to work in the mines, they had a need for the mine workers at that time, did you ever hear of anything like that? This is how he got to come over here was the war at that time if you remember. And however it happened it was that they needed these workers and they had said that anyone that could do mining work could come here to America in those days. So he had done a lot of work like that in Switzerland and Germany, he had done work in tunnels and different things like that because there was no work there around we were in Italy at all in those days. So my dad was always working other places, so he came over here in December and naturally came to Alabama because he had a friend that was living there already, the Brunetti family.

RMM: Do you remember off hand if there were more or other people from the province of Bolagna. Or anything about how they got directed to Alabama?

LM: The only thing is even though my father did go to Alabama this Brunetti family had already came up here to Michigan at that time. In 1914 he had already left and came up here but he his the one who wrote and told my father that in Burmigham, Alabama around the mines there they wanted workers and this is really through him that he really got the idea of going to Burmingham. And then that is when the mines were working really good and really needed all the people there and it was in Garnsey really, actually it wasn't Marble it was Garnsey that he started out. Then he worked about five years there to raise enough money to send for his family in Italy which would be his wife and his three children, we were all born over there. So in 1920 he got enough money and he sent for us and then he took us to Garnsey and we were there about.....

RMM: You remember the trip over?

LM: Yes I do.

RMM: How old were you?

LM: I was seven at the time, the oldest was nine we had two years apart, and then Fred was five. See my dad actually never saw Fred, my mother was pregnant when he left and he was born in February see my dad left in December and Fred was born in February. And the trip coming out here I remember very well the ocean, the water of course. My grandfather didn't want us to leave you know, we were living with my dad's father and he is very sad that we were leaving of course because he knew he would never see us again. And he would try to scare me that there was these monster's in the ocean that would come out and get us all so we would just stay there. But naturally we had to go where our father wanted us to. Then we got to Ellis Island...Oh, then I remember the boat ride, are you interested in that?

RMM: Oh, yes.

LM: The boat ride was really....my youngest brother and me were the only ones that weren't sick and it was one of these boats that you know, we called it a Cabin boat at the time. But the sleeping quarters were all on one level and these all had bunkbeds and things like that. And all the men were in another area and my brother Frank was very sick at the time, they made him of course sleep with the men and my mother was very worried about him because he was very sick, he was sea sick and so was my mother. Well anyway, there was a gentleman there I remember him saying to my mother "I'll take care of him don't worry about him." That he would watch over him. But they parried the two families together, my mother and another family together there would be another woman and her children and some of them were even more sick then my mother was. And it was up to my mother to get the food that she could for them, so my mother really had it rough. My oldest brother was very sick and naturally she had me looking after my youngest brother because he was a dare devil you know. He was running all over the deck, hanging over the railings and I'm there pulling on him. I remember that so well, I was running after my brother. Then of course we got to Ellis Island.

RMM: Now were the other immigrants were they all Italian or mixed?

LM: These were southern Italian people that my mother was paired off with. And my mother could not understand her and the other lady could not understand my mother, they were speaking their own dialects. And they could not converse together because they could not understand one another. But my mother knew that she had to watch over and do what she could for them.

RMM: Were there other immigrants...

LM: Yes, and mainly I thought they were all Italians, there were many, many the boat was loaded and there were so many people there. I remember when we saw the Statue of Liberty and I heard everybody yelling and I wondered what they were yelling for and then they

were all looking at this direction and then you could see the Statue of Liberty as it was coming up. And everybody was really happy to see it because they knew they were near land. But then when we got on Ellis Island there we had to stay there because my father didn't have enough money to get us from there to Alabama. So he was trying to raise money every way he could so he could send us money. And everyday my mother had to go to the office to see if they had gotten the money yet and I guess we were there for about one week.

RMM: You remeber?

LM: Yes I remeber, I remeber running all over. Everyting was kind of cold in there though, I remeber the rooms in there were so- they didn't have any warmth in them. Maybe everything was made out of tile or something, you know, they had to keep everything where they had to keep it clean because after all these immigrants coming across you can imagine what they were spreading too, you know. But they, I remember them giving us all a blanket, towel and soap. You know, so we had to wash up with this stuff. And then the food, I remember the food. And they had this whole table laden with food. That's the first time that I had tasted jello and the first time I had tasted butter. And we thought that was something so great. Butter, I don't know why I liked butter, but I remember eating butter there. And but the, all the immigrants were very, either they were very hungry or very whatever you want to call it, but when they would put this food on the table everybody was grabbing. Everybody was grabbing. And one man got up "Aren't you asamed of yourselves, doing a thing like this, the children aren't even getting anything to eat." And so he really shamed a lot of people there. But you see, it goes to show you that people when they're hungry I guess they don't think about anybody but themselves. But finally anyway we got, we got the notice that the money had come in and that we were put on a train, I remember the train ride and sleeping there all the time I was so tired, and my poor mother, you can imagine what she went through with these three children you know. Then we got down there. When I saw my father for the first time, naturally he was like a stranger, I you know am backing away, he natually grabbed ahold of me and hugged me. I was afraid of him. Can you imagine my own father?

RMM: Because you were what two

LM: I was two when he left and I was seven now. And then of course, he was so good to us. I remember that he had his little four room house there, and he made it as comfortable as he could. A man that was Batching all those years, you know five years is a long time to be without his family. But finally we got everything organized and I remember that he was trying to teach my mother how to say one word because people would come knocking at the door for different things, you know, for one reason or another. And he would tell her, "Say, I no speak English." However they say, I

don't speak English, but naturally it would come out so different than ??????? would say it. And she would try to say this word, "I no speak English" to the people that would come. But then by little my dad could speak pretty good you know from the five years that he was there, he could really get along with mostly anyone there. And we stayed there in ????? for about four or five months. And then the mines went on strike. It was this big strike that they had coming up. And they were sending all the people out of the homes out of the company houses. And we had to, they gave everyone a tent and we had to pitch a tent and live in this tent. And it was getting towards late fall this happened because we spent, But us this family of, well this was another Grewnetty not the same Grewnetty that had called for him but they were related. He had a farm up in ??????? Town that was

RMM: What was his first name?

LM: His name was Boschi, Boschi

RMM: How would you spell that?

LM: Boschi, B-O-S-C-H-I Grewnetty and he's the one that owned farm land in Edings Town, he owned a lot of acres up there and he did farming and he would sell all his products during the summer and all to the people who would come down with a wagon you know, but he is the one that had this big home there and he gave us two rooms, he gave us one bedroom that all of us fit in that one room it was so large and then he gave us a kitchen. It used to be their bath-house but they converted it over to a kitchen and he gave it to us to use as a kitchen which we had a stove and table and chairs, you know. And we lived with him for all that winter and then the next year the mines opened up in Piper, Piper, Alabama. And my dad got a job there. So we moved from there to Piper.

RMM: So what did your father do while the mines were on strike did he work with Grewnetty?

LM: Well actually, not much of anything. He did a lot of hunting, he could hunt, you know, and get stuff for the food to eat, you know. And he would help him do anything there was to be done. He had a lot of cattle, the man. And I suppose he helped with all, you know that to me, I had gotten numonia that winter. And they said that it was the good care that I had that I am living today. Because if it hadn't been for them I would have been dead because in those days they didn't know too much about numonia. And this, so it was so much of that time to me was like vacant. I can't remember, you know just what happened.

RMM: When you were sick?

LM: I was really sick that winter.

RMM: Could we just backtrack a little? Could you give me, do you have some detail about Grewnetty's farm? That was about how far from Marble?

LM: Three miles from Marble. And it's called Eddingston. The town, Eddingston. E-D-D-I-N-G-S-T-O-N.

RMM: Eddingston, OK. And he had about how many acres?

LM: He, well I would say he could have had ten, fifteen acres. You know now I could be wrong, but it was quite a few acres and he had fruit trees. He had peach trees, a lot of peach trees. He would raise a lot of corn. He would raise a lot of sweet potatoes, and the soil was red naturally, you know. He would raise sweet potatoes, we would help, the kids would help to, when he was cultivating them. We would go out there and pick them all up and put them in bags and then he would pick them up. And watermellons, he would raise watermelons there. Because even when we lived in Marble he would come down every summer with his bag and load it. I don't know, two three times a week I guess he would come. And he would peddle that stuff. People would come out of their homes when they would hear him coming and they would buy whatever they needed off of him.

RMM: And they you said, he also had cattle?

LM: He had cows. He had cows and he had the milk. And they made the butter, the buttermilk. And this is where my mother learned, then that you could make butter. You could make ??????. You could make cheese. So that when we really got established in Marble after my father worked in Piper for maybe another year or so he worked there. Then the mines in Marble opened up and that's where we spent most of our lives. That's what I remember mostly, is Marble.

RMM: Do you remember anything about Piper?

LM: Piper, I remember, you know, yes, I remember exactly we lived next door to a German lady Grill was her last name. Grill, It was a ????? man and his wife and they had children that lived down the road a little futher. The Grills, and Mrs. Grill would be, well anyway these Grills were the people that really taught us how to get along, how to speak, if there was anything that we needed to store they would tell us what to call. I remember once my mother wanted to hang up, she'd see these people hanging up clothes, you know in Italy they never hung clothes with clothes-pins and she thought that was very clever. So she asked this women "well what do you call that, this" She said, "Clothes Pin" And so they would tell us to go to the store and tell the man clothes pin see and he would get us the clothes pins. And these Grills really really helped us. They were really wonderful people, and to this day, we still, I still write to one of them, the grand-daughter of the Grills. She married in fact one of Boschi Grewnetty's step-sons,

she married this girl.

RMM: Now Grill was just the way it sounds?

LM: G-R-I-L-L

RMM: What was the, say their first names?

LM: We used to always say, Mr. Grill and Mrs. Grill. I can't remember their first names at all.

RMM: Now were there other Italians in Piper?

LM: There was not in particular in Piper. I don't remember, none were living around us at the time. But then when we moved to Marble is when there was a lot of Italian peoples in Marble.

RMM: They were already there.

LM: They were already there. And of course when we moved, they had all the Italian people in one section of the town and this was called Little Italy. We would call this little strip. And here there was ?????????????? just any Italian that you could name, an awful lot of ????????

RMM: What about some of the other areas?

LM: There was, let's see, there were ?????, there were oh what were their names, ?????? yes, Barbaries, Barbaries were ?????????????? there were ??????? there, there was even the ???, I forget exactly, they were, what in the world could they have been? Cobrasy, but mainly what I can remember is the ?????????? isn't that odd, but there was an awful lot of them. At that time those didn't mean anything to me, you know, and I should have learned more, you know, I should know more about it but at that time when I was a youngster Italians were Italians you didn't think that they were different from different places you know. But there was an awful lot of them there. And then we started going to school naturally. I started, we, Frank and I started school in ??????? and then we went to Piper and went to school. Then we went to school in Marble, and that's where I finished the eighth grade there.

RMM: Now was Gardsy, were there a lot of Italians there?

LM: Now see that part I can't remember. We knew the Bernetties from up the farm because they would be back and forth all the time, and there was other Italian people up there at that in Eddington, there were other people there.

RMM: Do you remember, were there any others that were into farming?

LM: They all had pieces of land that they worked, nearly everybody there. That section in Eddingston was mainly farm land.

RMM: Oh so the Italians who were there

LM: They didn't work the mines, they worked in the moor or the farms. Some of them did work in the mines though, but not that many up in Eddingston. Now that's only three miles away from Marble.

RMM: Did they, did they ever so things like say work in the mines and have a farm, sort of do both?

LM: I would think that some of them did that. I really would think they would, but you see I can't really. But I think that they did, but mostly they would have the lot of farm land around there. But not as extensive as the Grewnetty family. I think they owned mostly the main part of the farm land up there. Then Mr. Eddings, the name of the town was after this Eddings, well he had all his family there, and what kind of work they did I never did find, I never really knew. He must of been one of the prominent people up there because they named a town after him. He must have been there for years. There was Hoggis up there, the Hoggis family. I remember them pretty well. And then ?????? in Alabama we went to school and naturally we'd see my father come home from the mine, and he'd be all dirty and black and my mother would have steaming hot water going so that he could take a bath and they had these round tubs that they put behind the stove that was cold you know. It was like the four rooms in these cotton houses. Each one had some way of heating them. Like the two back rooms, one was the kitchen and the other was the bedroom, but it also had a chimney that you could put all these potbelly stoves there, and they would have places in the back of that so they could take their baths. And then my mother would have her supper ready right away, you know, because he had to eat and I remember that was a big job. And one thing my father wanted his children right there (smack) at supper time you had to be home. He didn't care what was going on in the town, you had to be there, you know. And I remember all we had to hear was that whistle and we'd come a running. That was one thing about him. And what else can I say?

RMM: Now you said he hunted, he did a lot of hunting?

LM: He did a lot of hunting. It was mainly, you know, mainly it was rabbits and squirrels. You know they would hunt squirrels. And that squirrels you here it's a crime to eat a squirrel but there that was even better than the rabbit because the meat was a little sweeter somehow or another, you know. And then of course, when we lived there in Marble my father, you could sense in any amount of the property that you wanted to then, the city, the town there of Marble would let you. You know, the county, whoever owned it, it was a Roming Coal Company that owned the Coal mines. Well anyway,

RMM: That's alright.

LM: Jack Bartolani

RMM: so why did they leave?

LM: Why did they leave? I'd say that things was getting kind of really down around that time.

RMM: Now this would have been around about what year?

LM: This was, they left about 1927. They left there. And then in 1928 we left because the mines were going down at that time. There was hardly any work, they did one or two days if there was. So then we came up here in 1928 too and we lived with the Bartolani's until we found a house that we rented, k start renting back in the Davison Area down here. And any way, but to go back to the owner of the mine, Mr. Roden as I remember. To me I don't remember say any troubles or anything like that, that was nothing that was worried about at that time. But my father probably went through a lot of think you know, now there is no work what are we going to do, what am I going to do with my family. But Mr. Roden he would have a move, there was a movie house there in Marble, you know. And he would give him a free movie every, the first Monday of every month and had all these people go to this movie and he would come before they showed the movie he would tell you about what was happening with the coal mine. How many tons we got, and how many, how much this costs, and how much that costs. He gave a whole discussion about it to make the people feel good. And then he would leave and then we would see the movie. So that was kinda, rather nice. But I also remember that the colored people, the black people there, they were just about as bad off as the Italians really in a way. They would come, they couldn't sit there with us, but we never understood why. We didn't have any prejudice. We didn't know what that was. But here they would have the balcony for the black people. Or they'd have a different day for them to go. But the company, we had a company store that we bought all of our staples, you know say things that you need right away, what we didn't buy from other people that brought it in. And if there was black people there, they would serve the whites first. I couldn't believe that either. But we had a post office there and we had the store. We had the railroad station. We had a movie theater. The movie theater was also used for the church on Sunday, they were Baptist there. There was no Catholic churches there at all. We had to go to Blocktand if we wanted to go to church. And by going to Blocktand you would have to go say like in the morning with the train and come back that night with the train, because it was too far to walk and you had no other transportation at that time. See my father bought this car, it was about 1926. So up to that time you had no transportation.

RMM: Now did any of the, so there was never a Catholic church

LM: Not in Marble no.

RMM: Did any of the Italians become Baptist?

LM: Well yes, apsolutly. Now he started us going, the minster there came to the house and spoke to my father and he said, "We know that you don't have a Catholic church here, why don't you let your children come to ours." He said, "We don't teach them anything bad, everything is good what we teach them." And my father thought well if this is the only way, they might as well go there. So he let us go, and we really enjoyed it, you know. And then

RMM: Ok, you're talking about the Baptist minister.

LM: Yes, he was very nice and his, he had a family there that went to school with us. Their one son I remember being in our same grade and, But anyway, our friends down there today are Baptists.

RMM: Italians

LM: The Grewnettys the ????????????? are all Baptist today because that's the only way they could go to church. There was no church there. And not enough Italian people stayed there for them to build their own church. They didn't have anyone to come in to steer them in the right direction.

RMM: Now could you name some of the families and give the spellings?

LM: The Brunetties, the Millstonies, Melsoni, Nannini, Orzani, Mongoni, the Corina they were all there, Stolfi's. And then the Stolfi's ended up going to New York and this is where they migrated to now. And everyone is gone, the Nannini's are still left there, the Melsoni's are left there.

RMM: All these people you mentioned became Baptist?

LM: Who is there know? Who is there now would be the Nannini's, the Melsoni's is all that I would say right now and let see the Toreno, Maria Toreno their there, their Baptist. Everyone that is left there is Baptist right now. Because even the church they had in Blockton is not there any mor, did you know that?

RMM: They had a school one time.

LM: Yes.

RMM: When you are down in Marble is there any prejudice, did you ever have any problems?

LM: Well yes. I would say yes, not really problems but you could

tell that we were.... I didn't understand it at that time, really I didn't understand it that it was. But looking back now I could tell in a way, not that they mistreated us in any way I don't think. The school's were.....we had a a lot of friends that were the southern americans as well, I had a lot of friends although I don't like any of them now which is mainly all the Italian people that you stopped there. But I never had that feeling that they never treated us differently in the schools.

RMM: Did you have any problems with the Klan?

LM: No, not that I can remeber anything like that.

RMM: Were there any special celebrations down there that the Italians would have?

LM: Well, they would have these dances. we would have people from Blockton come down to Marble there and there was a big pavilan there. There was this man from Blockton that played the accordian, one played the clarinet they would come down, they would play pieces to dance. But music would be so goregous that everybody, all the Italians would gather from all around and come there. I remeber a real lot of people coming and it was really something, unbeliveable as a young girl. But that didn't last to long because afterwards when the mines start going down then there was nothing left, you know the people they all migrated from the south.

RMM: So for a few years.

LM: For a few years they had that. They had a ????? ???? there and they used to roll these cheeses down, I don't know what they did to the cheese but they used to have that. But other then that I don't remeber anything more about any entertainment at all. The people there used to listen to the stories, the Italian women could tell stories like you couldn't believe. They would gather all the kids around them and the neighbors and they would tell them stories.

RMM: Do you remeber any of these stories?

LM: Well actually I couldn't even begin to tell you now you know how many years this goes back. But I remeber being very intrested in them. Things that would happen to them and they would have these stories to tell of what they remebered in Italy. Mrs. Nannini was the one that did most of that.

RMM: What was her first name?

LM: Maria Nannini.

RMM: She was a story teller?

LM: She was a story teller, right.

RMM: Were any of them frightening storeis?

LM: Most everything was frightening, yes. Here is a story that I remeber when they were supposed to have been going through this wood or something, it was like Halloween night. They had a lantern and pumkins and something or other, you know. They made it so misterious that they had us so frightened that we thought something was going to come out of the thing and jump on us you know. It was things like that, but it's very hard to remember that. But they were scary stories what they would tell. Cause I know we'd all sit around

RMM: did they tell them at night?

LM: At night.

RMM: Did they ever tell the story about the little coals from the fire going up the chimney?

LM: No, I don't remember that.

RMM: It's supposed to be, what, the lost souls going to heaven?

LM: Oh how bout that, yes, yes.

RMM: Were there any, did they establish a club in Marble?

LM: The only club that they had was this German Lodge. You know this German Lodge I forget what was the name of it. But my father had joined that.

RMM: ???????????

LM: Isn't that hard to remember the name of that lodge. It was a lodge that Mrs. Grill, the

RMM: This is in Piper?

LM: Yes, Mrs. Grill, Piper wasn't really that far from Marble so all the people would gather. They would do a lot of visiting from one town to another. I remember people coming to our home many times. Of course, my mother and dad would always have some food there, and when we'd go to see people, they'd put food on the table. We would go to ??????? we would go to Piper. We would go all around to visit these people that we knew. That was the ?????????????? on a Sunday that was what you did.

RMM: Now who were some of the people that you visited in Blockon and why?

LM: Blockon now see I can't remember their names. This is my whole problem. See this fellow with the store, there was a lot of, There was the fellow that played the clarinet, because he gave my brother lessons with the clarinet. Frank would go to Blockon every Sunday with the, every Sunday with the train he would go to Blockon and he would have clarinet lessons with this man and he would stay there til the evening when the train came down. This is one thing that my father wanted him to learn. It was through his music that he came down that one particular time and played the clarinet and it was so lovely you know, and he wanted my brother to be a clarinet player. My father played the accordian and he did it on his own though.

RMM: Has you father played in the ???????

LM: No. he wouldn't do that.

RMM: just for home?

LM: Just for his own home and his own enjoyment. But everybody would hear him playing this. You know it carries, at night, the sound a lot. And when my dad would play that thing, they said that they could hear him all the way up ?????? which is three miles away they were hearing them.

RMM: Now why did they, why did your father leave then? Could you just get into that? What did he do when he got to Detroit?

LM: Well, now you know my father, going back to a time that we were still in Italy at the time, there was a family by the name of Colomdini C-O-L-O-M-B-I-N-I this family had, they had five or six children, and the father got hurt somehow or another and he couldn't work. And my father took care of that whole family until he got on his feet, this Colomdini.

RMM: This is when your father was single

LM: This is when my father was, yes, when he was only here alone. and that probably is why too my father didn't have enough money to save, because he was helping everybody out. Anyway, later on this Colombini, he started selling fruit, and then he built himself up into such way that he had to ???????? but he moved to Burmingham at that time, and he had a store there with everything in it. And so, but we would go see him, and they would come to see us.

RMM: What was his first name?

LM: I remember the son's name, but I don't remember the father's name.

RMM: That's alright.

LM: Colombini, oh gosh.

RMM: So they moved then,

LM: They moved to Birmingham. Then the son, Jonny Colombini, came up to Michigan. And he went, I don't know where, how, he went to school down in Alabama I'm sure, because he was already a young man when he came up here. But he got a job at Briggs Manufacturing Company, and there he became like a boss there. Straw boss, they called him. And when he had heard that they weren't working down there, my father had asked him, was talking with his father down there. He said, "I've got to go someplace else to earn a living because I can't stay down here like this." and he says, "I'll write to my son, and see what he can do for you." And the son sent for him. He said, "You come up here and I'll guarantee you a job." So my brother and my father and another young man from down there, they drove this car that we had and they came up here with it. It took them three days, three solid days I guess to come up here in those days. Which isn't that much longer. But anyway, he did get him a job at Briggs. Then he sent for us. We came up, my mother and my other brother, and we start, and of course my father worked there till he dropped a piece of steel on his foot and he became disabled. But they didn't have compensation in those days, so he was just out of work for a long, long time. But in the mean time, we were here too, my brother started going to the Ford, what do they call that school that they had for the Ford,

?: Trade school.

LM: Ford Trade School. He worked in the trade school and then he was working also. He was going to school and working. And he was able, and whatever, and I started doing house work, that's the only thing I could find. But everybody did what they could. My mother, then my youngest brother and my mother both got working in a cooking place right across the alley from us on Davidson. We were on the other street in Davidson, and they both went to work there. So all of us pulling in whatever it was. It wasn't much you could earn in those days. Then the big depression came, you know, it was really rough. But we left Alabama, you know what, to me I grew up there. When I say home, I say that's my home, because I was raised there. That's what I know, you know as far as all my good memories of my childhood was there.

RMM: Now, do you ever go back?

LM: Well I have gone back several times, not as much as I wanted to. After I married my husband, he wouldn't take me back. He'd always go to Pennsylvania but he would never take me back to Alabama.

RMM: Now was his family from Pennsylvania?

LM: From Pennsylvania, yes. Every year we'd go to Pennsylvania, but oh, I got the biggest thrill when I first went back to Alabama after I was almost 55, 50 years. It's terrible, but I'm always writing to my friends all the time, and they kept me in touch with a lot of things and when I went back it was such a thrill to me, but there was nothing left there, like I remembered it. Our house, the company house wasn't there. They tore it down. They tore all the houses down in ??????. They tore all the houses down in Piper. They tore all the houses down in Marble, except what the people really bought for themselves, and that's why they're still there, these people. And there's not that many left, but there are a few to this day. And now everything is growing up like the street. I was trying to find out where our house was, and the oven that my dad built. There is nothing there. It's all trees now. The streets seem so narrow, I said, "How could it be, I remember real wide street." And it's sad to see that, and then another thing that my father did, and we were the only one with running water in our house. You know, they had the water running threw the street, so the people, you know, piped under. And there would be a hydren there, one would be way down there. The people would all use the same ones. My dad piped into that. He took some pipe, piped into that line, run the water to the house. We had water in the kitchen. We had water down-stairs where she did all the washing the laundry, it was underneath the house. The houses would be like their flat. The front of the house is right on the ground, and the back would be so high up, it was up on like steeples that he made the garage under there for the car. He made a driveway down and it went underneigh the house. It was really funny. And also my father what he did, which I think he was a little artistic also, he on sandstone, he sculptured two heads, one of Washington and one of Lincoln. And they were so identical that the comments that he got from that were unbelievable. And we had like a park place. Two of the rooms had the stoves, and the other two had fire places, off of the livingroom they had to have a bedroom where I slept in the livingroom, and then the boys had the one room and my mom and dad had the other. And there was a door out of each one of those rooms to go outdoors. You know, you had an outhouse out there. I remember a very good ???? there myself. We had everything that we wanted. We had the pig. We had the cow. We had the chickens that we ate. We had everything fresh, the butter-milk she would make. And finally in ????? when they tore all the houses down they put all the black people there next to us. We had a lot ????? houses there where we were. And all these black people came in there, and that's when we really finally got to know the black people. Right next door they were there, and I'm telling you they were so good to my mother, that women. She would do the, you know, clothes on scrub boards, you know, this women would come and help my mother all the time. Then my mother wanted to feed her lunch, when we come home for lunch, she wanted to feed this black women. She wouldn't come to eat while we were eating. She said, "no, after, I'll eat after." We didn't know that they were, you know they must have been so discriminated in those days that they

wouldn't feel comfortable to eat at your table, but my mother didn't know what discrimination was. She thought that these people, they help me, they are welcome to my house to eat.

RMM: OK, good thank you.