

INTERVIEW OF MARIA AND LUDWIG SANTUCCI
By Mildred Allen Beik

June 3, 1985
Windber, PA

MB: Millie Beik

MS: Anna Maria Eramo Santucci (1902-2000)

LS: Ludwig Santucci (born in 1936) – son of Maria Santucci and Antonio Santucci (1890-1961)

Beginning of Tape 1 (June 3, 1985)

MB: First of all why don't you tell me your full names so that I have it?

MS: Anna Maria and Ludwig Santucci.

LS: Now she's giving you the Italian, her first name is Maria, her maiden name is Eramo and her married name is Santucci.

MB: Okay, could you tell me when you were born just so that we have a few basic facts?

MS: I was born in 1902

MB: 1902, what day?

MS: January 8th.

MB: Were you born in a village or a town in Italy?

MS: the city

LS: It's a town like Windber would be.

MS: Rome, in the Sezze

LS: That's the name of the town she was born in the province of Rome, be like the state of Pennsylvania, and it's about 40 miles from Rome, Sezze is the name of the town.

MB: Okay, did you come from a large family?

MS: No

MB: How many were in your family then?

LS: Two boys and me.

MB: Were they older or younger?

MS: I was the baby.

MB: Did your parent live in Sezze for a long time?

MS: We only stayed in Sezze except for the winter.

MB: Where did you go in the summer then?

MS: Campagna.

MB: Why did you make the trip?

LS: They had sheep, her father.

MB: Oh your father was a Shepard?

MS: Yes

LS: And a farmer, in the summer he spent the time in the low lands, or the reverse in the winter he spent time in the lowlands. In the summer he went to the mountains with the sheep.

MB: I see, all the family went with him then?

MS: Yes

MB: Were there a lot of sheep herders and farmers in this area you were born and grew up in?

MS: Not everyone, but everyone did know how to farm, chickens, pigs, rabbits.

MB: Did you get to go to school in Italy?

MS: Yes

MB: Where did go to school and how long did you go?

LS: She went till third grade and then she got sick and never finished school

MB: So you never finished school?

MS: No I no go no more after that.

MB: Did you go to a state school or parochial school?

MS: I stayed in state school, wait no

LS: Catholic school, when she got the final exam then she went to state school.

MB: So you can read and write Italian as well speak it very well?

LS: Yes

MB: That's wonderful. Wish I could, are you her son then?

LS: Yes

MB: So what do you want to tell me about how you lived in Italy?

MS: The farm, summer time we come from the city and spend time with friends

MB: Did you work hard, did you have to do lots of chores?

MS: No not me, I come this country and work hard.

MB: Well tell how did you end up coming to the United States?

MS: Because my husband was in this country?

MB: Oh and you were married in Italy?

MS: Yes I was married in beautiful Italy, good husband, good family.

MB: What was his name?

MS: Antonio Santucci

MB: What did he do for a living in Italy?

MS: My husband was businessman.

LS: He was a merchant.

MB: A Merchant, what kinds of things did he sell then?

LS: Fruits, vegetables, fish

MS: All the seafood

MB: So did you help out with that?

MS: Not much because I had a baby.

MB: How old were you when you got married?

MS: I was 20

MB: Did your parents have anything to do with you two getting together or was this your choice?

MS: No, I chose myself.

MB: Was that the prevailing custom in that part of Italy?

LS: Quite a bit

MS: Yes

MB: So the younger people choose their own wife and mate.

MS: You seem surprised?

MB: Well some people still did have arranged marriages?

MS: Yes a lot, but not me.

MB: So was he from the same village then and same town?

MS: Yes.

MB: So you meet him there, did you get married there as well?

MS: I married my husband in Campangno.

MB: When you migrated in the summer?

MS: Yes

MB: I see do you mind telling me what year you got married?

MS: 1922, pretty young

MB: Pretty young, so tell because you started talking about this when you first came here, you know I just wanted to get some facts, how did your husband decide to come, did he have relatives over here?

MS: No he has no relatives, I have a brother he lived on another side of this country.

MB: Did he come before you did to America?

MS: My brother he come before me.

MB: Oh so you had a chance to hear from letters back and forth.

LS: And then my dad had a brother here in Windber in the coal mines. That's how He ended up in Windber, that's where the money was when he came over and he eventually sent over for my mother, and my two brothers were born there, so the three of them came over.

MB: Oh he did, I see, that's how I was wondering how that worked, because the brother was instrumental in providing information to help you come. So that was in 1935 you told me?

MS: Yes

MB: Did you come directly to New York.

MS: I got to Roman, New York

MB: Do you remember the ship you rode over or the ship you came over on?

MS: Italian named ship, it's a beautiful ship

LS: That was the name of the ship, and it was sunked in WW2.

MB: What was it like coming over on that ship?

LS: They had a storm coming over, they were all 5 days late getting in.

MB: Now who all came?

LS: My father was already here

MS: My husband stayed in this country. I come here it's me and my two sons Amelio and Vincent.

MB: How old were they, were they big or little?

MS: Amelio was 11 and Vincent was 9.

MB: So then you landed in New York, did you come directly to Windber then?

MS: Yes

MB: Did you catch the train?

MS: No my husband came and picked me up in the car.

MB: Had he been working in the mines, or had he stayed a merchant.

LS: No here he was working in the mines.

MS: My husband either work in the mine or no job.

MB: Yes cause of the depression, your family came during the depression.

MS: I try all the time, I don't like this country, I come and everything is bad, and we come at bad time

MB: So where did you live in town?

MS: I lived by South Ave. on 6th and cologne with my sister in law

LS: They had a double house there and they lived on one side.

MS: I go to this place because I don't know nobody I can't speak, my boy go to school my husband try to go to work can't get no job, one day a week, it's worth nothing.

MB: it's hard to make ends meat. Did anything help, did you meets lots of Italian people?

MS: Oh lots!

LS: Yeah there were lots of Italian people in the neighborhood.

MS: Not really pisan, just to say Italian people speak Italian like me.

LS: What she means there, there was quite a few Italians but not many where she came from or where my dad came from. And it was kind of hard at first because she wasn't used to the other dialects, because each Italian area had its own dialect.

MB: That's a long way to think back too, from the 1985 perspective. Had your husband been here a long time before he bought you over, like had it been a few months or years before you came over?

MS: I think, 9

LS: It was 9 years my brother Vince he hardly knew my dad, he was born when my day left for this country.

MB: Oh I see so you were separated for a long time. He didn't go back in the interval and see him.

LS: That was prior to getting married he had made more than one trip.

MB: Oh he had already been in Windber before you got married?

MS: Yes

MB: So he must have come pretty early then?

LS: He was here serving in WW1, so that was 1918-19.

MS: He come and he worked in the mine his brother too, the father die, my father in law die.

MB: Was he here in Windber too?

MS: No, no neither, my husband stayed in city, he worked at the place my family live at, my mother in law had six kids.

LS: They worked here and sent money home.

MB: Do you know how that worked, how they sent money back, did you have to go to a special place?

LS: You just went to the post office

MS: Yes the post office, it's a nice place

MB: Okay, I have never done that, I would just like to know how it works.

LS: Its real simple it's just like a money order through the exchange and everything you can still do it today.

MB: I suppose I just never done it.

MS: You never go no place?

MB: Well I been to other places, but I just never sent money that way, and I guess a lot of immigrants did that.

LS: Oh yeah.

MB: So it was a very hard life when you first came, tell me about it?

MS: Oh I don't like to think of it because it's really bad. Everybody need relief, I don't know where to get the relief, talk about relief, and everybody got something in the house I work in the farm you know, we didn't have no job no money that's bad.

MB: Well how did you survive then?

MS: Stayed home, I tried cooking my way

LS: Everything homemade, baked their own bread made their own noodles.

MB: Did you have a garden at all?

MS: Not me

LS: They all did though, they had their truck patch, with fresh veggies during the summer, canned tomatoes in the fall.

MS: For my pantry I no find everything when I come to this country. I wanted to go back home and stay.

MB: Yeah, it must have been pretty hard. Did your husband keep working in the mines?

MS: Yes, long

LS: He worked in the mines for quite some time, but he left the mines and went into business himself.

MB: What kind of business did he go into?

MS: Selling wood, coal you know, anything.

LS: Coal, wood, ashes,

MS: We make a couple of dollars, you know I try to do everything. It's hard because no job no place. When winter come we try a little bit more at a time.

MB: So you remember when they got the Union then?

MS: Yes, me come to this country everybody fight, demonstrations that go on till dawn. The lady put them in jail.

LS: Pickets, Women, pregnant women on the Pickett line.

MS: Demonstrations of struggle

LS: In fact my dad he was fired from the mine just because he was one of the Union organizers.

MB: Oh was he I didn't know that It must have been hard coming over here and adjusting to all the changes with that, What about his business.

LS: He ran the Ice plant for 19

MS: A long time

LS: 1942, till he got sick and I ran it myself out of high school and I ran it until 1964. During the war no one had refrigerators and business was doing pretty good. We made a decent living then.

MB: So that time from 1935 to 40 must have been real difficult.

MS: I come to this country, my sister in law make me bake pie,

MB: You baked bread I bet, pasta pf all sorts. And did you have anything to do with the Ice house or were at home watching the kids?

LS: She stayed at home.

MS: No I stay home

LS: All she did was run the house.

MB: Can you tell me about the Italian community in Windber, did you belong to any fraternal institutions or clubs?

MS: The place I belonged was Catholic.

LS: Church society

MS: Not the other place.

MB: Not for insurance, any of the insurance ones, a lot of miners joined those.

MS: No, we need insurance now to help pay off bills. No it might change everything, I don't know.

MB: When you came was there an Italian band? Early in the century I know there was an Italian band.

MS: No

LS: It ended up being a community band, I remember that from when I was a kid, back in the 40s, I don't know if the men getting drafted into the service had anything to do with it or not. You know during WW2, they did have a band but it was a community band, it wasn't just an Italian thing.

MB: Oh I see, so earlier different ethnic groups had their own bands, and like you said it was thrown out by then. So how many children did you have altogether then? Are you one of the ones that came over?

LS: No, I was born here.

MB: Okay, I didn't think you were old enough to be. So how many children did you have altogether?

LS: That's it just 3 boys.

MB: Did any of them go into the mines?

MS: No, my boys no go to mine, they got different jobs.

MB: Did either you, you or your husband want them to go into the mines at all?

LS: My Dad was against it.

MS: No my husband no want any of his sons to go into the mines

LS: My brother Ralph went to the steel mills, he was always involved in that kind of work, he worked for the steel mills and construction, the ford motor company, he's been all over the state, he's been all over three states actually, he ended up retiring from Bethlehem steel.

MB: I hope he got a pension

LS: Oh yeah

MB: The steel industries these days is questionable. So when you were raising your children then, did you have certain types of values you like to stress?

LS: Well they had the old time values are far as work went, and education they tried to get as much education into them as they could afford. We all finished high school. My brother Vince he was fortunate he got through G. I. bill, and he went to Cambria Rowe for two years, so he got extra education and the rest of us just finished High School.

MS: Ludwig could not go to school, my husband was 70 and he was lying in bed paralyzed.

LS: When I was in school my dad was sick and paralyzed for around 7 1/2 years.

MS: couldn't go to school.

LS: I never had the opportunity to go to college, but I was fortunate I got a job right away.

MB: Now a lot of people didn't go to High school, I think that was one thing you said.

LS: Now that's one thing, my dad wanted us to have an education.

MB: I'm sorry about your husband being paralyzed, that must have made it harder. Is there anything you can tell me about the community of Windber?

MS: I never really go no place in Windber

LS: She never really got out much

MS: You never went to any dances?

MS: I like to go once in a while when somebody invited me, I really don't like to dance, but I do like to go to the movies. I go sometime on vacation.

MB: Did you go up to the park when they had all those pictures?

MS: Yes I go with my Husband/

MB: I think they use to have some big doings up at the park that they don't have anymore.

LS: Oh yeah, no more

MS: Yeah, no more, before we come and have a big picnic area.

LS: Townspeople from the same town that lived in Altoona. They all use to come to Windber

MB: Are you talking about Italian families?

LS: Yeah they came from the same town that my parents did. They would get together at least once or twice a year and have picnics in the summertime, they would come here from Windber to Altoona and then the Windber people would go from Windber to Altoona and have the picnics there.

MB: I don't suppose they do that anymore?

LS: No

MB: Did you go to set Anthony's church?

MS: Yes

LS: As an entertainment that probably be the biggest thing for the group, her group when they had the yearly bizarre at the church. That's about the only functions they attend and the picnics at the park, but as far as going night clubbing as they do today, no, they don't even go to the bar.

MB: Why don't you tell me something about your father?

MS: My father when he came to this country I was not born, my father stay for 70 years and never see me.

LS: She was born after he left, she was 7 years old until she saw her father.

MS: I back in Italy me I don't know my father and my father don't know me. I go wait for him

LS: The stable, she went to the stable to wait for her father to arrive in America.

MS: I imagine my father saying, that's Maria.

MB: So he had a surprise. So what did he do when he came to this country?

MS: He worked on the railroad.

LS: railroad.

MS: He can't afford a boarding house because they don't pay him a lot of money. He had to sleep in a box car. My father told me this

MB: Your Father sleep in boxcars?

LS: They could not afford a boarding home.

MS: My father I believe after he sent so much money because he had a large family to support.

MB: So he stayed 7 years, were conditions real bad in this area that he came to the U.S. to try and earn some money.

MS: It was hard to make money in this country.

MB: Was it hard to make money in Italy?

MS: Oh it was worst in Italy.

LS: Yeah, it was worst in Italy they came here because the railroads were pushing through and they were making new rail lines. That would have been, to give you a time element there she was born in 1902 so that would have been in the early 1900s when he was here working.

MB: Right and Clearfield county, was there a reason he went there?

MS: I think just two families, one my father in laws was there.

LS: She doesn't remember for sure, but she does remember that there were people there from the town that would sponsor him to make sure he got a job.

MS: Oh I see he must have had a good time in Clearfield.

MB: I wonder then, I guess Berwyn white had mines in the area at the same time. I don't know if there's any connection

MS: No, my father never work in the mine.

LS: Berwyn was in this area in the Windber summerset county area, Clearfield was up near state college area, and that was more railroad area, close to Altoona you know that area close to the car shops.

MB: So when your father came back to Italy, did he stay in Italy or did he come?

MS: In four years then he came back again.

MB: Did he go to Clearfield again?

MS: I don't know, many places he stay, because me and my Husband we were getting married, so I had to wait for my father to come back home.

MB: So you waited for your father to come back before you got married?

MS: Yes

MB: Did he stay in Clearfield that time?

LS: Yeah and he never came back.

MB: Oh I see, have you ever been back to Italy since you came here?

MS: Oh lots of times, I go on vacation you know.

LS: Six times we been there.

MB: So you get to see your relatives of all sorts?

MS: Yes, its nice now, beautiful place, everybody go to school and college.

MB: When was the last time you went to Italy?

MS: 1981, we stayed for 6 months

MB: So you still have a lot of ties with relatives.

LS: It's ironic but the closes relatives are on my dad's side of the family. Because my dad his brother left another 3 brothers and sister in Sicily and they never came to this country. So that part of the family is much larger than my mother's side. She only brother lives in this country and all she has over there is cousins.

MB: Did you keep any borders in the 30s?

MS: No

MB: Were people keeping borders in the 30s

LS: Lots of them. That came from him being a border, he was a border in the house while she was in the old country. He got married and lived with people so I guess he never really wanted to have any borders in his house. Cause it was a lot of extra work.

End of Tape 1

Beginning of Tape 2 (June 3, 1985)

LS: A lot the men that were here, cause work was bad, it was really like a job for them, they either joined up or were drafted or whatever, now my dad went in but he never left the country

he served his whole time here in this country, my uncle that's my dad's brother and her brother, they went overseas. To fight overseas, now what I can gather from it is that when they came out of the service they automatically became citizens with their discharge papers. And I guess that's what convinced a lot of people to bring their families over here.

MB: Does apply to the whole family? I don't know how that works, does the wife automatically become a citizen?

LS: when she came over she had to take the citizenship test, and take the oath in front of the judge and then she became a recognized citizen.

MB: Did you do that here?

MS: Yeah.

LS: Yeah it was in Somerset.

MB: Well how did that work because I don't know much about that?

MS: Well lots of people cry because they ask you many questions, you have to study this before you go.

LS: Let me interject something here, she tells this and I can remember way back how it went for her, but these people you know if stop and think, they came from a foreign country couldn't speak a word of English, to become citizens they answer these questions the judge would ask them, they would say the pledge of allegiance and so forth, they memorize everything and answered the questions on what the judge would say. They didn't know what they were saying really, but they said and the judge would approve their citizenship.

MS: I study every day, every day and I remember/

MB: Did you do that by yourself or did you have someone to help you?

MS: No, I no remember

LS: I don't remember I was too little.

MB: Did you have classes anywhere?

MS: Yeah, I go to school too.

MB: Okay, how did that work?

MS: the teacher ask a lot of questions on the blackboard, so you can answer and the teacher would do you understand what I mean and he take the chalk on the black board and write. One time I see something, I feel so bad I want to say this but I can't say English I get up in the chair I go to the blackboard I write in Italian no English, the teacher say, "You know Ms. Santccui I know what you mean but can you say that in English

LS: She knew the answer in Italian but she couldn't say it in English. They had classes at the high school.

MB: Was it just regular teachers or was it some sort of special program?

MS: I think a special program I don't think teaching.

MB: This was in the 30s soon after you came over here or was it latter than that?

MS: Yeah during the 40s

LS: After the war, oh wait I guess it was during the war, she says she became a citizen in 1944.

MS: I think so.

MB: So did you go in front of a Judge in Somerset

MS: Yes

MB: How does that work?

LS: How many people were there?

MS: Lots, just like in school, the first time I go I remember it being more regulations

LS: Some papers that she needed to provide.

MS: Because I know understand what he said he asked me many things. Make me funny!

MB: So you passed that test?

MS: Yes the last test they let me go, I answered everything. They give me the paper.

MB: Have you studied any English at all, before you came to the U.S.?

MS: I just studied the answers and that's it.

LS: Only the answers to the questions of the citizenship test, that's the only English she knew and she didn't know what half that meant.

MS: To get everything, I had to study a long time, and now I don't remember nothing.

MB: Well you're speaking English now though.

MS: I'm speaking English and Italian.

LS: She mixes them all up now.

MB: I can understand why that be easy to do

MS: When you stay long time in this one place, I go to Italy I don't know what I'm talking. I want to talk in Italiano I mix it up and say the English words too. The way you look at me sometime I don't know how I'm talking.

LS: I'm surprised you didn't ask us anything about my brothers' problems in school here.

MB: Yeah, tell me

LS: One was 11 and one was 9 when they got here, they were out into the third grade, both in the third grade even though they were much older. But as they picked up the language, actually a little kid will pick it up faster than a grown up, they were skipping grades then until they caught up to their age groups.

MB: Did they have a real hard time?

LS: They had a real hard time, I would hear stories from them, because the other kids in those days made fun of them because they couldn't speak English of course.

MS: And the teacher would pick on my biggest son and that's no good, and they get mad and don't want to go to school.

LS: She wanted to go because the teacher picked on my oldest brother

MS: I wanted to give the teacher a piece of my mine.

MB: Why because he couldn't speak English, is that why she was picking on him or was there something else?

MS: No because of the trouble with the kids, the kids making fun, listen today tomorrow, maybe my son might fight somebody. The teacher might be after my son, the kids they understand everything, and my son would be fight with the teacher. The other boy after my son because the teacher was wrong.

MB: Did the teachers every put down the kids themselves, some people have stories of teachers trying to change their names ?

LS: No they didn't have that problem.

MB: Okay, did they know any English before they came?

LS: No

MB: Then your experience was probably a little different being born here?

LS: Not really.

MB: Tell me about that then?

LS: I was born here, but I spoke Italian before I spoke English,

MS: He go to school and know nothing about it.

LS: I couldn't speak English when I started school, except I picked it up playing with kids around my age, when I went to school I had to learn English just like I came from the old country too.

MB: What school did you go to?

LS: East ale elementary

MB: Would you mind telling me what year you were born?

LS: '36

MB: That must have been hard, so you're bilingual now?

LS: Oh yeah, I'm not sorry for it

MB: Tell me what the school was like that you went too? Were there a lot of kids in that same position?

LS: A lot of ethnic groups and um I say most of the ones that were my age that were born to ethnic families could speak both languages, I don't think that there were many more just like me, because my mother had just come over a year before, but I grew up speaking the native tongue and I had to learn this one like it was a new language to me too, but I was probably the exception rather than the rule, but most of the other families were here longer, and kids my age there big brothers and sisters were all speaking English.

MB: But you went through High School and everything in Windber?

LS: Oh yeah.

MB: Do you remember much conflict between nationalities since there were so many?

LS: Not really not that I can remember, maybe before my time but what I remember it seemed like the east end was all Italian and the west end was polish and Slovak and the Hungarians were

more so up by the Hospital and over the years they started moving to other areas, and now they say this town is like the United Nations now.

MB: When did you moved to this house Mr. Santucci?

LS: We only lived here 15 years

MB: Did you stay that the stock ham house?

LS: No we moved to Somerset Avenue just a block away from here.

MS: That's life ain't it?

MB: Well what about conflicts within the Italian community? Was there conflict between people who came from different parts of Italy?

LS: Probably before she came here

MB: Well it's interesting to know that that doesn't exist no more. That's interesting

LS: She was amazed about some of the stories that she was told after she got here about people killing each other and so forth, you might of heard those stories too, but that was even before she came here.

MB: Were they celebrating any Italian days at all

MS: Yes

MB: One time they had Columbus day, Columbus day was considered a big event in Windber, it was considered a big day for Italians.

MS: No we had St Anthony's day.

MB: Saint Anthony's the church?

MS: Yes

LS: She don't remember, she or church, the patron saint of our church was from Italy, so that's more or less a Italian parish and they always celebrated the feast of Saint Anthony every

summer. In fact it's this month some time, and they don't even have that now, they have it a different month because it conflicts with the other saint Anthony's in Johnstown.

MS: Everything change.

MB: Well you seen Windber change a lot too. Do you have anything to say about when the company left or selling houses?

MS: I felt so bad when they closed down the company store, I talked to the owner and told him how bad I felt when they had to close down the Rican stores.

MB: Oh they Rican stores?

MS: Now it look funny

MB: And the mines closed down?

MS: The mines closed down.

LS: Did you ever have the opportunity to shop at a Rican store that was company owned? They had everything there.

MS: You go to Rican store before in Windber?

MB: No, Well I was born in Windber hospital?

MS: So you lived in Windber?

MB: Well only as a kid but then we moved. We lived forty when I was a kid in grade school.

LS: Where are you staying now?

MB: At the [gruelest]

LS: The reason I ask is Have you been in mine 40

MB: Yeah

LS: You see how different that is

MB: They changed

LS: And the houses are all fixed up.

MB: Yeah, my old house is all sized up

MS: I got a brother in law he lives in Mine 40, you know him?

MB: No

LS: You probably wouldn't remember

MB: No I remember things as a kid would, not as an adult would.

MS: You think of 40 and you think of Windber.

MB: Did you husband deliver Ice throughout the area?

LS MS: Yes he drove all around.

MB: He went to all the mining camps?

MS: Yes, he delivered to a lot of people in mine 40

LS: Yeah, one time he five trucks delivering Ice.

MB: OH boy.

LS: You wouldn't know him, but the producer or something on channel six used to work for my dad hauling Ice and his name was [Lazarri], do you know the Lazarri name?

MB: No. I know what station you're talking about but I don't know him

MS: He worked for my Husband.

LS: A lot of people worked for my Dad in those days, when they came out of school if they weren't 18 they were getting drafted. And they worked for him and when they got drafted he had to hire someone else. So it was a lot of turnovers.

MS: My husband gave chance to all the young kids, he treated them so good they never forget.

Lots of people ask I know Denny he the best man that paid.

LS: He was a good employer all the ones that worked for him.

MS: 50 cent, one dollar lots of money in those days. Now one dollar don't mean nothing today.

MB: Was anything else you can think of on how Windber had changed over the years?

MS: Sure, Windber change a lot, people change too. Before I had lots of friends to go and visit.

Only people like me, now I don't they

MB: Visit the way they did?

MS: Yes

MB: Do they help each other?

LS: In the old days they did.

MS: When you were pregnant, all the neighbors would come and help around the house. They help cook, wash and overall help your family. But not today.

LS: You don't have that close knit group no more.

MS: Not today.

MB: Do godparents mean the same thing that they use to, that was pretty important?

MS: In Italy

LS: Here I don't think it's kept the traditional value of it.

MB: So when someone's a Christin it's more distorted?

LS: Yes

MB: How long has your husband been gone?

LS: 25 years?

MS: 24 years.

MB: That would be about 19

LS: 61

MB: Right 1961 when he died, oh boy. Long time. Well thank you very much I don't know if it's anything you would like to add, but if you wanted to tell somebody you had never seen Windber or had understood nothing about immigrant like or coming here like you did, is there anything you would like to ask?

LS: One thing I remember as a kid and I grew up with about 8 or 9 other boys and we were all in the same age group and the thing I remember when we were kids even at 11 12 or 13, every Christmas we made sure that we went to midnight mass. After midnight mass, we would go to one of the boy's houses and the mother would have a big ham cooked and there was all types of good food.

MS: And this was Polish people not Italian people.

LS: It was the Slovaks and Polish people that did that more than the Italians did.

MS: Are you polish?

MB: Hungarian, so there was a mixture, when you were growing up there was a mixture of groups?

LS: Yes

MS: Italian people very different.

MB: What about marriage customs have they changed a lot?

MS: Here or Italy?

LS: No here.

MS: Oh they changed a lot

LS: this came even after the 40s, I would say that no longer would just marry into their own group. Even just my two brothers, one married a polish girl and the other married a German Jew.

MS: I know in the family Michael on stock ave, nice boy and lots of kids. Keep the boy so pale, come to my house.

LS: They were always trying to sell pigeons.

MS: My Husband like the soup.

MB: Pigeon soup?

LS: She was a widow who raised three kids, and she would sell Pigeons to make some extra money.

MB: It must have been very hard on Windows and families if someone was killed in the mines or some other way.

LS: In those days there was no benefits for the widows they had to make it on their own.

MS: Lots of little kids would come up to my Husband and say “Mr. Sanctccui can you give me a job?” If he didn’t have any work for them he give them 5 cent to go see a movie.

MB: Yeah, I guess that’s what you mean about people trying to help each other. Do you know any Italians poems or songs that you would to sing for me or recite for me?

MS: No

MB: Do you sing or do you like to sing?

MS: I used to but not now.

MB: People don’t sing like they used to sing.

MB: Do they teach Italian at the church to the younger generations.

LS: Probably I was just thinking, we had a priest here a couple years ago, and he taught the young kids the community class let’s say he taught them to sing the one Christmas carol in Italian.

MS: Oh that was beautiful.

LS: And it was really beautiful in church when those kids all singed that song.

MB: Right but there isn't a systematic language class for those who would earn it from their relatives?

LS: No and a lot of that has been lost and it's a shame really but.

MB: You have great grandchildren now?

MS: Oh lots not just some.

MB: How many do you have?

LS: 8, 9 now you got a new one,

MS: Well that's my life

End of Tape 2

End of the Interview (June 3, 1985)