

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Smoky Hollow

Personal Experience

O H 1385

CATHERINE MASCARDINE

Interviewed

by

Joseph Mancini

on

November 25, 1990

CATHERINE MASCARDINE

Catherine Mascardine was born April 25, 1906 in the area of Youngstown called Hazelton, near Oakland Field. She had three sister and two brothers. Her father was employed at the Sharon Steel Hoop Company in Hazelton. She attended many different elementary schools and graduated from St. Cyril's School in the eighth grade and never went on to high school.

She moved to 320 Adams Street in 1926 with her in-laws and moved out often while raising her first child, Dorothy. During the Depression she spent some time in Briar Hill and eventually moved back to Smokey Hollow in 1933 and remained there at 320 Adams Street until 1979. Her husband was employed at Youngstown Sheet and Tube for forty-four years. During the Depression, Mrs. Mascardine did house cleaning on the North and East sides for \$ 65 a day.

Catherine had three children, Dorothy, Joanne, and John. They all live in the Youngstown area today. Mr. John Mascardine Sr. passed away in 1977 and was an original member of the Golden Eagles Club. Mrs. Mascardine attends the Smokey Hollow reunions occasionally and attends the Veteran's Day Memorial held for members of Smokey Hollow who were Veterans.

Mrs. Mascardine is a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church and enjoys bowling.

JM This is an interview with Catherine Mascardine for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program on the Smokey Hollow, by Joseph Mancini, at 621 Saol Drive, Hubbard, Ohio, on November 25, 1990, at 8 05 p m

Can you start off by telling me a little bit about where you were born and what the date was?

CM Where I was born?

JM Yes

CM. I was born in Youngstown on April 26, 1906.

JM Were you born in the house or a hospital?

CM I was born in the house.

JM Were you?

CM Yes

JM What schools did you attend?

CM I started at Hazel Public School, but they sent me home with a sore throat and I had dyptheria

JM Oh, really?

CM This was in December, and the following year she sent me back to school and I started at the same school They had the nurse exam my throat and they sent me home with this slip of paper saying that I could not return to school unless my mother had my tonsils taken out So, she kept me home another year

JM No kidding, another year?

CM: I was eight years old when I started at St Cyril's Then I went four years, until I made my First Communion and my Confirmation, and then I went back to public school down there

JM What school did you go to after St Cyril's?

CM St Cyril's Hazel Public School is what it was called

JM Oh, okay

CM It was Hazelton then Now I do not know if you would know where it was at Do you know where Wilson Avenue is?

JM Yes

CM Well, you have to go all the way down Wilson Avenue, through Hazelton, until you get to Campbell, Ohio.

JM You went all the way there to school?

CM No It was called Hazelton, Ohio

JM Okay, I see

CM Then we did not have enough room there and I went to Roosevelt School for one year, seventh grade Then from seventh grade I went to Lincoln School for the eighth grade and that was it

JM You did not go to high school?

CM No

JM Why not?

CM Well, we had it rough My father was not very well and my mother had borders, besides going out to do day work, and she could not afford to buy me the right kind of clothes So, you wore something Monday through the whole week, washed it on Saturday and started all over again Well, you know, at that time, there were a lot of Jewish girls that went to Lincoln School and you know how they used to dress And then right on my sixteenth birthday, I quit

JM No, kidding?

CM Yes

JM Can you tell me what your father did? His occupation?

CM First he used to work for the Sharon Steel Hoop Company

JM Where was that?

CM Down in Hazelton, right off of Cherry Street Now there is Metal Works or something, but he worked there and then he worked at the Calvary Cemetery During the summer he could not work because he had hay fever and asthma My mother had borders Then we had cows, chickens, geese, ducks, whatever you

wanted

JM Oh, really?

CM My younger brother and I used to have to take the cows out to Oakland Field, where WHOT Radio Station is now.

JM Did you let them herd out there?

CM· Yes, go take them out in the morning before we went to school and then before we went to school we did not have any inside water, we had to fill out the boiler to boil the clothes in the tub, we would come home for lunch and it was the same thing. Then when I came home my mother and I used to hang the clothes out on the line.

JM In the winter?

CM· In the winter, the long one piece underwear. That is how I learned how to dance, because I took each one off of the line and I was going with them from the backyard to the kitchen. And we did not have a furnace, but coal stoves, and my mother had the clothes line in the kitchen hanging over the clothes line.

JM Wow

CM Wow is right, besides going and picking things for customers like potato peelings and stuff like that. Then after supper I had to go and deliver the milk. We did not have that many customers.

JM Did your father work down at that place pretty much all of his life?

CM No. He quit there and I do not even know what happened, and then he worked at Calvary Cemetery and they did not have all of these lawn mowers or things to dig the graves with. He used to have to do that with a pick and shovel.

JM Do you remember about when this was?

CM· That was after I got married. I got married in 1926 and then from then on, I lived in Smokey Hollow.

JM You talk about your brothers, how many people were in your family?

CM Oh, I had my older brother, he worked two years in the Pennsylvania Coal Mine.

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes, and then he worked at Sharon Steel Hoop when he came back That is where he worked until they moved to Philadelphia and then they came back and then he worked with the Commercial Shearing Company until he died He died in 1943

JM Do you have any sisters?

CM Oh, yes

JM How many people?

CM Four girls and two boys My older brother died in 1943, he had pneumonia My younger brother died about three and a half weeks before my son got married in 1965 That was my younger brother, he was fifty-seven years old

JM Were you the oldest in the family?

CM No, I have a sister who is ninety-three She is in a rest home, Maple Crest Rest Home in Struthers Then I have a sisters that just passed away this month, October 8th, 1990 Margàret, married a boy from the Smokey Hollow, his last name was Santore

JM Oh, okay

CM Then I have another sister, Helen, she is seventy-seven and she lives in Boardman; and then there is me Of each one of the girls, I am next to the oldest. So, my sister Mary is ninety-three, I am eighty-four, Helen is seventy-seven, and Margaret would have been seventy-five this month, but she passed away at seventy-four.

JM When did you move down to the Hollow?

CM In 1926, when I got married I was gone out of there one year during the Depression I lived with my in-laws right there at 320 Adams Street and we rented a two room house at the end of Adams Street, towards Walnut Street, and then it got rough because the men had not been working, so I moved with my mother for one year and then I came back In 1933 I lived down there in my mother-in-law's old house on 320 Adams Street And I lived there until I moved with my son here on Hallock

JM So, when did you move out?

CM 1979, because my husband passed away in 1977 In September of 1976 we celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary and I lived there two and a half years, then somebody broke into my house, beat me up and then my son took

me with him

JM Was your husband from the Hollow?

CM Yes He was born in Italy

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes Him and his older sister were born in Italy, then his father came to New York first and he had a spaghetti restaurant Then my mother-in-law came here My husband's younger sister was born in 1913 and they moved here to Youngstown They lived in the Smokey Hollow near Harrison Field on Willard Street Then for about one year, I think, they rented on the corner of Watt and Rayen Avenue and then they bought that house on Adams Street It was two doors away from Nazerine's Store That store was like a four-roomed house. They opened the store in the living room and they had the kitchen off of the store, and then the two bedrooms upstairs

JM When your husband moved here, did his relatives live in Smokey Hollow, did he board with somebody do you know?

CM Gee, I do not know I think that they were Cumarda's and Delbone was their last name They lived on Watt Street, going towards Summit Avenue Of course, now it is not Summit Avenue

JM So, it would be Via Mount Carmel

CM Yes

JM How did you meet your husband?

CM Dances

JM Did you know that he was from the Smokey Hollow?

CM I did not know where he lived from the beginning To tell you the truth that Mascardine name used to sound so funny I used to call him sardines. Yes, because they used to say, "Who is your boyfriend?" I said, "Joe Mascard-sardines " That is how I got to know that they were all from the Hollow They used to call him Bucci, his last name was Buccianico His father had a store in the front and he was a baker

JM When you moved down from Hazelton, were you pretty much well-accepted being from out in the Hollow?

CM: Do you mean by my in-law's?

JM Yes

CM Are you crazy?

JM No, kidding?

CM My mother-in-law wanted to send my husband to Italy to go live with his uncle

JM: Why was that?

CM Because I was Slovak and he was Italian

JM No, kidding What did you have to say about that?

CM Oh, I told him, "If she wants to do that, let her do that " What could I do? But he would not do it So, whenever I used get mad at him, I used to say, "Why do you not go to Italy?" Even after we were married, "Go and live with your Zio Sebastiano "

JM What does that mean?

CM. Uncle Sebastiano

JM Okay

CM Zio means uncle

JM Okay When you moved down to the Hollow, what did you consider its boundaries?

CM: That was like a little village It was beautiful Even where I lived down there in Hazelton, because a lot of times there were dances, like especially on Election night or something, and it was nothing for you to walk down the street at 3 00 in the morning You were never scared. The same thing down the Hollow

JM Can you tell me what streets were considered the Hollow?

CM Well, I will tell you, the way that the whole Hollow started, it had to be below Summit Avenue It would be Rayen Avenue, and at that time it was not Oak Street Bridge, that used to be Oak Street, and there was a bridge, Crab Creek was the bridge that would take you to the East Side Then they named it Elk Street after they made the bridge Rayen Avenue, Oak Street, Watt Street, Willard Street, Walnut Street, and Audubon, Carleton, Emerald Street, Oak Park,

Scott Street, that used to run way out there to the North Side. Also, Andrew's Avenue All of the Pighessi's used to live there I was going to take out some pictures ..

JM You could do that later

CM No, to show you the plugs

JM Oh, I heard about those

CM Yes, see my son snapped some pictures He went down there on the corner of Adams Street and Watt Street out of the sewers you ought to see the water It would be this high

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes

JM Because of Crab Creek?

CM Yes, because it would come through the thing and then you should see Adams Avenue Then there was Valley Street There are still houses on

JM How far up on Wick Avenue did it go? Was Wick Oval considered Smokey Hollow?

CM Well, to get up Wick Oval you would have to go on Rayen Avenue and Wick Avenue and then off of Wick Avenue Wick Oval was a circle All the way up to Scott Street is where the Nuziato's lived, D'Amico's.

JM Was that by that wall?

CM Then there was Wayno's Grocery Store there, too, before you got to Scott Street They had to tear all of that down after they put the free-way through There was a store on a brick, where Gaglian's used to have a store there They used to call her Bambina, but I cannot think of her name There was the Bucciano's, Nazerine's Store, and then there was a store on the corner of Rayen and Watt Street

JM You are talking about stores

CM Oh, God the stores Then we had a store there on the corner of Emerald and Audubon Street

JM Were there a lot of stores?

CM Yes

JM Did you do most of your shopping there at those stores?

CM Oh, yes naturally Well, you would walk downtown if you had to do your general buying, because they had the Hughes, that was downtown And then the A&P Store had come down there There were a lot of them The East end had a lot of stores Especially, the Jewish people

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes, Holmes

JM Was there a lot of credit given?

CM Yes, naturally They used to get paid like every fifteen days

JM Did your husband work?

CM Down at Youngstown Sheet & Tube He worked there for forty-four years

JM Did you work while you were living down there?

CM No, not from the beginning Not till after I had, well, I lost two between my two daughters, Dorothy and Joanne I lost a girl and a boy. Then I did day work I worked during the Depression for \$ 65 for eight hours

JM Doing what?

CM Housework

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes I washed walls

JM In the Hollow?

CM No

JM Where at?

CM On the East side, North side, and then they paid \$1 00 a day

JM Oh, really? So, you did work during the Depression?

CM I had to

JM Did your husband work during the Depression?

CM No, because the mills were closed. The only thing that we used to have to do is go all the way to Stop Ten in Campbell, the Sheet & Tube used to give their employee's \$5.50 worth of groceries, but you had to pay that all back when you went back to work.

JM Oh, really?

CM And the only thing that we did not have to pay for that we got was a twenty-five pound sack that we got from the Red Cross. And we could not get anything from the city because whoever worked at the Sheet & Tube, they knew that they were getting that \$5.50. We did not get anything from Welfare from the city, just the flour from the Red Cross and what used to come from Sheet & Tube.

JM. Would you say that it was especially tough living in the Hollow during the Depression?

CM Well, it was but then it seems that everybody got along alright. You cooked what you could, mostly spaghetti. Well, you got the flour and you made your own bread, and when we used to go to Sheet & Tubes storage you had a take the two pound boiling beef, which was mostly fat, but you made soup out of that.

JM. Oh, really?

CM Yes, and a six pound ham. We made the ham thing and out of that, what was left, you made ham and bean soup. Or if you had the money to buy potatoes, you made cabbage and potatoes, but everybody ate what you put on the table.

JM You were talking about a Sheet & Tube Store, where was that?

CM Down in Campbell. See, Campbell and Youngstown, which was called Campbell, Youngstown Sheet & Tube down in Campbell and then they had one in Briar Hill, too.

JM Were just people that worked at Sheet & Tube allowed to shop there or what?

CM Yes, just employees. See, when the men were working good you would get a coupon book and you bought with the coupon book, but this during the Depression, you had to go and they would give you a slip and kept track of what you used to get. Every fifteen days they would give you \$5.50. They would give you spaghetti, tomatoes, but no tomato paste.

JM Did you have a garden?

CM My father-in-law did They had a garden So, there was the lettuce and whatever. When I lived with my mother-in-law, she did

JM When you first moved out, you moved with your husband's family?

CM Yes

JM. What was that like?

CM I do not want to go through that

JM Okay

CM Like I said, I should have kept the diary I wish that I would have

JM Was it rough?

CM Yes Oh, wait a minute, after I had my first daughter, two weeks later my mother-in-law threw me out with the baby because I did not name her Rachel, after her older daughter that died during World War I

JM You have got to be kidding me?

CM. First, I went to a friend of mine, they lived, our house was here and this house was here were Their name was Richard's, that is where that Peaceful Sam got killed

JM I heard about that

CM D'Appilito was their last name, but we knew him as Peaceful Sam So, that was the day before Christmas and it was beautiful It was like Easter Saturday I think that is when I lived with my mother for that one year

JM What did you husband say about that?

CM Well, he came after me, you know First, I went over my girlfriends for awhile because it was snowing, a blizzard and the wind was blowing

JM What year was this? Do you remember?

CM That was 1927 That was before Christmas, because she was born November 17, 1926 and two weeks later then is when I went over to my mother's and we moved into Brier Hill We used their kitchen and the bedroom was our own

JM Then you moved back?

CM No, then I moved with my mother because there was a lay-off down at the Sheet & Tube I lived up in Briar Hill with a family by the name of Castranova, but they went by Cassie I lived there until July and then it was getting rough for us, you know, so I moved to my mother's and he moved to his mother's

JM And you lived separate?

CM Then I got pregnant again Then we moved back His mother was sick in bed

JM So, you should have kept a diary, huh?

CM No, I should have shot my brains out for moving back there That is when they had bought a house on the corner of Watt and Adams Street, some old and broken down house and they remodeled it They were adding another bedroom and I told my sister-in-law, "You tell your mother that we are not going to move there and live with her " I told my husband, "If you want to move with your mother you go, but Dorothy and I are not going to move in with you." But then we found two rooms at the end In fact, Carlinie's used to live on the corner and this was the house where we had two rooms upstairs We lived there until, well, in 1929 is when I had the still-born baby, it was in 1930 that we moved up there Then in 1931 I went down and lived with my mother for about one year, but I will tell you this, do not live with your in-law's I had six rooms down there and when my older daughter got married I said, "I lived with Grandma Vengella, I lived with Grandma Mascardine Dorothy, go on your own " Even if I could, I would have helped them out on their own Then in 1933 we moved down there where I was living until 1979

JM You jumped around

CM But I always came back to the Hollow

JM Did something always pull you back down there? Did you like living down there?

CM Well, that house was empty and a family by the name of Rosselli lived there and then they moved out and they said, "Come down here it won't cost you any rent " They just wanted me to get down there So, with two rooms of furniture I moved down there little by little See, I had already lost the two in between Dorothy and she stayed with my mother for two years because St Cyril's did not have the first or second grade So, for two years she lived with my mother, but every weekend my mother would drop her off because she used to work cleaning offices downtown And I lived there ever since until 1979

JM You have mentioned the houses that you have lived in, but let us talk about the

house that you lived in for the most time, from 1933 till 1979. Can you describe what the house looked like physically inside, with the floors and the rooms?

CM It was getting bad They used to come around from the real estate office about your taxes They had us down We had six rooms and they only had us down for four rooms

JM Why was that?

CM Well, you did not have to have a building permit at that time

JM. Oh, I see

CM Everybody added on

JM And you did not have to have a permit for that?

CM No You should have seen that house next door to us, a family by the name of Ross I do not know if you have ever heard of them?

JM Is that Carmen Ross?

CM. Well, yes, but his father added the big addition This room was small and this one was long and the one that was supposed to be the dining room was going this way and then the kitchen went that way

JM Was there a second floor where the bedrooms were?

CM Yes They only had two bedrooms upstairs and they added the kitchen Well, the same thing with my in-law's when they bought that house It was a four room house

JM With no kitchen?

CM There was a kitchen and a living room, four rooms, two up and two down

JM. Okay Is that it?

CM Then he closed in the back porch and they made a little kitchen out of that. It was a concrete floor

JM With a basement?

CM By that time they had the furnace

JM With a basement?

CM Yes

JM I heard that most of the living in the Hollow went on in the basement And a lot of time was spent down in the basement Was that typical?

CM No, that was a cold cellar, a wine cellar.

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes

JM What was it like having a coal furnace?

CM That was the best heat that you could have had

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes, once you fired up the furnace you had heat all day. But do you know how the gas furnaces are you turn them on and then they shut off and then it comes on as soon as it gets down so far, well I could not get used to the gas heat

JM Oh, really?

CM No

JM Did you have to clean your house a lot because of the coal furnace?

CM. Naturally It got all smoked up Then when I moved down there, Rosselli's had a coal stove in the kitchen

JM Oh, really?

CM See, my father-in-law had a coal furnace in the basement, but Rosselli's had a cook stove So, they dug a hole in the thing and had the pipe going out that way Well, God almighty, if you could have seen that house Mrs Thomas, that was her name before she married Mr Rosselli There was Bill Thomas, you did not know them?

JM I have heard of the nickname.

CM Yes, there were three boys and two girls

JM You moved into that Rosselli house too when you first moved back down there?

CM When I moved there, Rosselli's moved out because they had back rent, a back bill for the gas, electric, and water

JM Oh Then you lived in that house for awhile and then you got your own house?

CM Until 1979

JM Oh, that was the house that you lived in until 1979?

CM See, they left that to my husband. It was only him and his sister So, when they died they left that one to my husband and the other one to his sister, and she was married to, his nickname was "Big Six " They lived two doors down from Carlini's Carlini's lived on the corner there

JM Why did they call him "Big Six?"

CM Do not ask me I am going to tell you there was a DePinto family, Jimmy passed away Then there was the Morella's, and the father's name was New Castle, because he was born in New Castle, and they had three boys, Bird, Duck, and Moon Then the Vecharelli's, there was Kirp, and I forget Jimmy, they called him Jimbo Then Kirp had two boys, Dom, who married Carol D'Amico Well, I do not know if he had a nickname or not But then they had Magatone There were more nicknames.

JM Did your husband have a nickname?

CM Oh, he was Blackie ape and Buckie He was dark complected, that is why they called him those

JM. Okay

CM Everybody had a nickname and I do not care what you say

JM Today, nobody has a nickname All of my friends, we just call each other I think that that shows the closeness

CM Then the Gaetano's lived on Ford Street and there was Ching, do not ask me why they named him Ching

JM How about if I bounce one off of you "Can and Ass?"

CM Who?

JM Do you remember a guy by the name of Can and Ass?

CM Can and Ass?

JM Yes, somebody told me that one

CM I would not know who that would be

JM Chaz Desko told me that one

CM Oh, you know when Chaz used to hang around across the street Morella's lived, I used to think, "What the hell is that little boy doing hanging around those bigger boys?"

JM That is what he said that he hung around the big guys.

CM Then he ended up with my daughter He is a wonderful person

JM Yes, he is Was your house typical? Were all of the houses the same, basically, other than adding on?

CM Well, everybody added on They raised their houses Like those that lived next door to me, they raised their house up to because they built a basement all of the way She had a kitchen then in the basement Then in the back they made a bathroom and a small kitchen because she rented out The one next to them, everything else was the same The one in the corner where Morella's lived they came from New Castle, well that is what they used to call those who worked on the railroad See, that is where they used to have their bunks Then when old man Morella bought that and he kept adding on a room at a time until they had the second floor, they had no basement because all of the kitchens were on the first floor

JM When you lived in Hazelton was your house a lot bigger than this one?

CM Oh, when we moved up there that was a dirt road and we were even Then when they put the brick road, well, this side they let alone because there was a creek, but we got all up on the hill where this one house had so many steps that you went and a walk and then some more steps until you got to their yard. Then the house next to us he had more steps than what we had and the house next to us They picked us up because they had to dig the thing so we were on top of the hill Then when they added new houses they were level with the street and it went straight up to Oakland Field From Rayen Avenue you went straight up to Oakland Field

JM What was it like moving down to the Hollow from a bigger house down to that house? Was it cramped for you? Was it different?

CM Well, because we used to all hang around in that little kitchen that they made out

of the back porch. Then my mother-in-law rented to a couple that had a little boy and they gave them the living room. My mother-in-law moved her furniture to the dining room and they had the living room but they used our kitchen. It was a little bigger than this.

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes. Of course, our bedroom was upstairs. My sister-in-law had three bedrooms upstairs. It was alright, but it was heaven then we moved up to our own two rooms. Over there at my mother-in-law's we never had a table cloth on the table.

JM Oh, really?

CM So, the first time that I put a table cloth I had a vase with flowers. The only thing is that I learned how to cook Italian, that is all I learned by living with my mother-in-law.

JM Oh, really? Well, Italian food is a good thing to learn how to cook.

CM I suppose. But you know when times were bad you cooked spaghetti and you ate. Especially during the Depression, you would go down Hughes or Deluxe and you used to get ground beef, eight pounds for \$.25.

JM Eight pounds for \$.25? Holy cow.

CM That. A&P coffee was \$.13 a pound. You got a three pound bag for \$.39. Eggs were \$.15 a dozen.

JM But that \$.15 a dozen was hard to come by, huh?

CM Yes. When my husband and I got married all he was getting was \$3.80 for eight hours working down the Sheet & Tube. He worked in the seamless tube mill.

JM. Did your husband work for almost forty years?

CM Forty-four years.

JM At Sheet & Tube?

CM Yes.

JM Let us talk about this a little bit. Do you remember a lot of strikes?

CM Oh, yes.

JM What was that like?

CM Oh, especially that big one.

JM Steel strike?

CM In fact, we went down there and they were really shooting from inside the mill.

JM. Oh, really?

CM We were on top of the hill there on Poland Avenue

JM Was your husband in the mill? Did he have to stay there?

CM No We went to watch at the Republic Steel.

JM Oh, okay

CM But I will never forget when I was still going to grade school, that is where a big strike was down in Campbell Sheet & Tube. That is when they used to have not the Indians with the wig-woms, they came from India

JM Oh, okay

CM Well, they brought these Ab's You ought to see there My brother and I, we took a walk and I used to hold him by the hand, my younger brother, and we walked all the way down there That was a long walk because we wanted to see what was going on

JM What was going on?

CM They were going in there and they were pulling them out of these houses that looked like one big apartment house where the rooms were divided You should have seen that, there was a lot of shooting and everything else down there

JM. No, kidding?

CM Oh, God did we get it when we got home because by the time we got home, it was dark and we had taken a walk on a Sunday Then my husband, the only time that we were in there was when we got snowed in

JM Was it the big snow of 1950?

CM It was the early 1950's, right after Thanksgiving I looked at the clock, it was 8 30 a m , and I said, "Oh, Dorothy you are going to be late for work, you better get

up " Because she got married in 1956 and she hurried up and got up and I am yelling to my husband, "Honey, hurry up and get ready " I did not look out the bedroom window because it was covered with snow I had the blind down And he said, "Where do you want me to go? Look?" He had to dig the car out of the driveway because it was covered with snow

JM Wow

CM But then they called him from the thing and he walked all the way from where we lived down to Stop Ten at Campbell to release those guys that were there from the night before

JM Holy cow Getting back to strikes, down in the Hollow when there was a strike, did it really effect Smokey Hollow?

CM I do not think so See, everybody was neighborly and friendly Now I do not know who is next door or across the street

JM I was just going to get to that

CM Oh, down in the Hollow everybody was, "Oh, hi, how are you?" Even Donetta, she was married to Kurp We used to go there for coffee and the next morning, we would go across the street for coffee, but we would always end up talking It was like one big family Our side from Watt Street down.

JM What made Smokey Hollow so unique to live there?

CM Well, everybody got along

JM That would be the answer?

CM Well, if you hear about these villages in Europe or where about how everybody knew everybody else. In fact, everybody knew everybody else's business

JM Was that the down side of the Hollow?

CM Yes There were the Pighese's, there is a family.

JM He was the superintendent He teaches at the university now

CM Yes, well at that time they had a Rayen Reunion from the very first year until then, and that is how my daughter was there because she graduated from Rayen And pretty soon she said, "Now you would not remember me now would you?" Now as long because when one brother delivered paper and as he got older the next one would I think that Mr Pighese had one girl and the rest were

all boys

JM Oh, really?

CM But they were all delivering papers As soon as the one got older the next would start So, he said, "I think I know who you are You are Adams Street " And she said, "Yes " And he said, " Is Mascardine your last name?" She said, "Yes."

JM No, kidding?

CM And he said, "If everybody took a chance and just lived one year in Smokey Hollow, Youngstown would have been a different city " Then there was a family that lived down on Willard Street, Penn. There son was a thing at East High School In fact he was the Assistant Principal at East High School Then there were two other families But you know what they were older people and they brought there kids, like old man Pighese

JM He did not mess around?

CM No Then there was a family by the name of Byrd on the end of Valley Street They were nice boys Then starts the trash

JM. Tell me about the trash?

CM The African's

JM Well, we will get to that later What was it like living down there during World War II?

CM Well, it looked like everybody was working The women were working The only thing by my family, on my side, as soon as they got thrown out of the house where would they come? To my house So, pretty soon I said, "Do you know what I need?" A sign by the side of the road Then my daughter left her husband My brother died in 1943 and he worked at the Commercial Shearing. Then his wife got a job there and his daughter got a job there because her husband was in the war They all got jobs at Commercial Shearing because their father worked there

JM· That brings up another real quick thing, if somebody got a job, let us say at GF, did they get their families in there?

CM They were working there They got the women because the one that they called Jimbo now, he is Assistant Coach now

JM For the Cleveland Browns

CM Well, his mother worked at GF

JM Really?

CM There were a lot that got jobs there, but I could not because the kids were small So, instead I took my sister, Helen, being that she was separated from her husband, she got a job at the Commercial and she lived with me and her little boy, and I took her job over at Stambaugh Building mopping the halls

JM Oh, really during the war?

CM Yes It was \$50 a month

JM That was not bad It helped

CM Then after six months I said, "Helen, I cannot do that anymore " John was a small baby

JM Did your husband work a lot of extra hours during the war? Was Sheet & Tube really working?

CM Well, naturally, yes A lot of time I remember, from the beginning when we got married, he used to go and work the clock around.

JM Oh, really?

CM Because every once and awhile he used to take a bowl of spaghetti with him

JM Oh, really? Twelve hours and stay off, and then come back to work?

CM Yes But during the war they were working good He used to work like three turns Then he was in a car accident, in the 1950's, and he used to stencil Then when he had both legs broken he could not do it So, they gave him a job in the office

JM Did he get hit by a car?

CM On his way to work The car was in a hurry because somebody was in the hospital and the car knocked him down and broke his legs He had both of his hands in a cast The only thing was to sue, but you could not Then after awhile they made a cross walk because that is where the bus would stop He went across the street to get comic books, he used to get comic books for \$ 5 and that is when the car hit him He was working as a clerk then.

JM So, he did not work on the line He worked after, but he really did not do

anything strenuous?

CM No, he was off from work for six months

JM Six months?

CM Yes

JM What was that like, having him off from work?

CM Oh, God, I mean, that is when he was seventy days in the hospital and then the hospitalization ran out and I had to have him for one month at home Dom Conti, I do not know if you know him?

JM Yes, I have heard of him

CM Well, we knew him So, we borrowed one of his wheel chairs that he had, then my husband was on crutches and then he walked with a cane, but then after a while he was alright But his legs always bothered him.

JM I would bet What did you do for an income during then? Did you work?

CM Well, everytime you had a thing you had to have the doctor fill out the papers He was getting \$56 per week Well, Dr Marnelli was our family doctor

JM I was just going to ask you about Dr Marnelli

CM He was a doctor, I am telling you

JM Oh, really?

CM. When we used to go in the office, he did not care if the office was packed, they used to like to talk about fishing My husband used to love to fish The only thing that he ever went on was Milton Dam Oh, Dr. Marnelli, he always had a cigar in his mouth, would sit in the chair with his feet on the desk and my husband would sit on a stool and I in a chair and I said, "Your office is full " He said, "Well, if they want me they will wait " Or if I had to go in just for a shot or something he would say, "There is no use in you sitting there, knock on the side door "

JM No, kidding?

CM Yes As soon as the patient would come out I went in there, gave me my shot, and out I went

JM Wow I heard he was a super guy

CM But then Dr Safranic was the one that fixed my husband's legs He always asked, "Well, how are you living?" "How are you getting along?" Well, my daughter was still single, you know, so with \$25 a week she would get me and we would get along, but those nuns at St Elizabeth's, they wanted me to sign papers so that the check would go to them and I said to them, "Then what am I and my little girl supposed to live on?" They said, "Well, we will give you so much to live on." How do you like that?

JM What? They wanted you to sign the check over to the hospital?

CM Yes, so they would get it

JM Then they would give it to you after they took out?

CM Yes They said, "Well, we will allow you so much."

JM. What? That is amazing The nuns.

CM They were nuns from the Villa Maria. But there was one nurse, Sister Dorothy, oh she was an angel My husband had both legs in a cast and they had to put a board with the plaster so that his legs would not, you know So, when they had to turn him he reminded me of Frankenstein, they had to get so many interns and nurses to turn him over and then put him on his stomach so he would not get bed sores You know that plaster would stick between your toes and it would smell So, she came and she said, "I do not know with these nurses " She would go and get that oil or whatever and cleaned all of that stuff between his toes Then I used to know what to do then I had it rough

JM Did you?

CM Oh, yes I had it rough

JM. Getting back to the World War II, did you know anybody that was killed that lived down in the Hollow?

CM Yes

JM Dom Conti was wounded, was he not?

CM Yes There was the one next to Carlini's, they have that thing there

JM That memorial?

CM Yes, but I knew that Zarlenga I knew Lucy Nazerine's brother, Marnelli He was in the Navy and the ship that he was on got blown up Then Billy Santore That

was my brother-in-law's brother. He graduated in June and the day they graduated, that is when his papers came, and that following September, that is when they left. Then the following May is when they got the notice that he got killed by a sniper. Mrs. Santore said, like when they bring you the body they do not show you the body. So, she said, "Maybe I am praying somebody else's boy and somebody else is praying for my boy." There was a Jewish boy by the name of Fine. There was an O'lenich boy who lived down on Carlton Street. There were a lot of those young boys there.

JM: What was the general feeling? Was Smokey Hollow really supportive of the war?

CM: Well, it made you feel bad,

JM: Did people get together for those people?

CM: They had memorial services at the churches and then they made that memorial thing where they honor those every Memorial Day.

JM: What was it like living down there in the 1950's after the war?

CM: Okay.

JM: Did a lot of the GI's come back and live down there?

M: Well, there were not that many, unless I did not know them. There were quite a few names, but I cannot think of them at the moment.

JM: Did a lot of the people start to move out in the 1950's? Did they start to build in the suburbs?

CM: Well, a lot of them, especially the Slovak people, it looked like they all moved on the West Side.

JM: Oh, really? Out from the Hollow?

CM: Yes. There was the Philip's family, the Martinco's. Up towards Harrison Field were all of the Slovak people. There were about three or four Italian families. Down our end there was nobody.

JM: You talked a little bit about the diversity or the different ethnic backgrounds that lived down there. For example, the Italian, and Polish. Did they always get along?

CM: Well, like I told you when I first got down there, I knew all of these, because when I was going to St. Cyril's school I had all of those girlfriends and my mother

used to think that there was no wax paper, no nothing, you got a sandwich by the time that lunch hour came, and get coffee in the whiskey bottle. In the wintertime we used to put that on top of the radiator and put a little bit of water to keep the coffee warm. Then I used to go down. That is how I got to know the Stanko's, Martinco's. There was another little candy store, they used to spell their name Uhrin, well my sister used to go with her son. That is the only one that she had. There were a lot of Slovak people.

My in-law's bought house that an Irish family owned that house. Now that house had to be, I know that is what they said at the courthouse at that time when they said, "This is how many rooms? This is an awful big house for four rooms." I said, "No, I have six rooms." That is when your taxes went up. They were not that bad then \$14 every six months but you know at that time it was like \$140.

JM. Do you remember any conflicts between any ethnic backgrounds? Any trouble?

CM Yes. Especially the family next door. Everybody at that time was making wine, and each one was trying to report one another.

JM Was it illegal to make it?

CM It was alright to make it for your own home use, but not to sell it.

JM Were people selling it?

CM Oh, you are darn right they used to sell it.

JM Was this during prohibition? You just were not allowed to sell it at all? Did they make a lot of it?

CM Oh, naturally.

JM Did you guys make any?

CM My in-law's did, yes.

JM Did they sell it?

CM Well, see, they had a little candy store and they would close the front porch in. I remember when my husband brought me there one time and I had to wait in the living room because the store was closed, the front porch, my mother-in-law came and gave me a package of gum and a mackel. When you took a walk when you had to go up to Watt Street, Carlton Street or wherever, you knew who was making wine because after they would squeeze the thing they used to throw that in their gardens.

JM Oh, I see

CM And you would have to go and walk on the middle of the street because of the fleas

JM Fruit flies?

CM Yes

JM You really do not remember any serious conflicts between ethnic backgrounds?

CM No, I do not think so Outside of that shooting where that Peaceful Sam got shot

JM But that was not ethnic was it?

CM Mafia, it had to be Now the wife knew who killed her husband but she could not say because she had to protect herself and her family

JM Do you know why he was killed?

CM Who know's? I know at that time it was that homemade whiskey, Raisin Jack

JM Do you think that was why?

CM Yes, because the way it was. I lived with my mother then and we just happened to come after the shooting We saw the ambulance and the way that he was found He opened the door and the guy shot him and that was it Then they questioned him and he said, "Nope, when I get out " Well, he must have told his wife, "Shut up " Or maybe his wife was told not to say anything

JM But they shot him dead?

CM Yes, he died in the hospital

JM Oh, he was still alive?

CM Yes

JM Oh, I see He would not say who shot him. Was there a lot of that going on down there, do you remember?

CM Well, at that time Watt Street did not have that bridge you had to go up the hill and across the tracks and this Mr Barber, he married one of the Morella girls from the Hollow My husband knew them but I did not know them My husband had just come up the hill and old Mr Barber was coming, and pretty soon my

husband heard the shot and, of course, he ran like hell and that Mr Barber got killed When they hit you they hit you I used to be afraid of those guys I knew who was who when I used to go down on the East end to buy a chicken You know the Jewish things?

JM Yes.

CM When I would see with the gray hat towards the side, their top coats just over their shoulders, and black patton leather shoes, and spats, I used to cross the street

JM Wow

CM My husband had a friend that was in and he wanted for him to get in with that

JM Oh, no kidding?

CM Yes

JM What did you say?

CM He said no They only thing that they said was, "Tell your wife that she is not to be afraid to walk down the East end If anybody bothers her, just come " They used to have a store front with the bottles with the spaghetti and roses in the vases

JM That was the place?

CM My sister-in-law and I were asked to come in there one time and they gave us spumoni ice cream

JM Do you remember the name of the place?

CM It did not have a name

JM No name, just a store front?

CM It had no name Then they had one on Watt Street and then on East Federal Street, and old Mr Nunziato sold all Italian stuff like prosciuto, and pepperoni and things like that

JM Were you kind of scared of them to begin with?

CM Well, I was afraid to go in there You know, you just look and I do not know if you heard anything about Sandy Naples?

JM No.

CM You never heard anything about him?

JM No

CM He came from a nice family from Briar Hill Well, when I was going to dances, he was one of them that I used to always dance with, too But see, what happened is, I do not know how he got in with them because I used to see them there, too I did not trust that Casise's place too much either.

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes See, that is when the kids were small The father and the uncle because I used to see him hang around there, this Sandy Naples, but see somebody did something and they had to go, so they paid him so much money and he went to Pennsylvania somewhere, and then when he got out he was one of them He came from a nice family I got to know the whole family when I got to live with them for six months out there in Briar Hill

JM The Naples?

CM Yes

JM You were talking about Casise's What kind of place was that?

CM That was just a saloon, a bar No restaurant or anything

JM Did your husband used to go down there?

M No

JM Not at all?

CM See, my husband used to drink and when he drank, look out, you know? So that is when one of the uncles, Joe Casise hit him over the head with a cue stick

JM No kidding?

CM See, they used to go there to shoot pool It was the thing My husband got his head patched up but he did not say who did it or what or anything And then one of the boys, he would come in from the driveway and had a gun in his pocket, Pechock, the older boy He wanted to go there and shoot to kill that Casise

JM Because of what he did to your husband?

CM Well, they were good friends

JM Oh

CM My husband, through the upstairs window, said, "Just go home " He died not very long ago, too

JM Oh, did he?

CM See, the Pechock family used to live on Willard Street

JM What was it like raising children down there in Smokey Hollow?

CM Okay, I guess They got along. One of my daughters wanted a baseball glove and ball and the other one wanted a football suit Girls used to get into fist fights with the boys over play money They used to have that game Monopoly There was my daughter, Dorothy with Billy Santore, my brother-in-law's young brother They were fist fighting in the middle of the street They were about twelve or thirteen years old, something like that

JM Do your children feel as though they have pulled some good values from living down there, like the friendship?

CM Well, I guess, yes See, my Joanne was the kind that if she walked downtown or something and a bunch of boys were coming, she would go like this and they did not even dare brush here.

JM Did she turn her shoulder?

CM No, she met Chaz and that was it

JM Oh, I see

CM. She never had butterflies with anyone else and then she met Chaz and that was it She never went with anybody else Then Chaz was going with her best girlfriend, but then he went to the Army There was a whole bunch of them that went to the Army Freddie Quattro, Chaz, DeAngelo boy, there were about five of them that left One could not go because he had rheumatic heart, that was the Morello boy They would not take him The Belcher boy went So, here this Barbara Belcher was going with Chaz and then she wrote to him and said that she met this kid She wrote him a "Dear John" letter

JM Oh

CM But see, then, when they used to come down to the house and sit on my porch,

he would take Barbara home and then he would come back down Well, my Joanne went to bed and it ended up that her older sister, Dorothy had to sit there and play "7up" with some guy in a card game.

JM With Chaz?

CM With Chaz And look, they ended up with one another and that was it. And she went to East High School Some of those girls get smart Joanne, Barbara Belcher, the girl from Summit Avenue there, I cannot think of her name Anyhow, they were all walking and these kids started laughing so my Joanne stopped and she said, "What are you looking at? Who are you laughing at? Her girlfriends were saying, "Come on Jo, Come on." And she just stood there, you know Well, they were best of friends after that.

JM No kidding?

CM With the colored group

JM Oh, they were colored?

CM Yes There was a colored family that moved next door after the Lefores' moved out, and they would come around and make all of that racket I was not home so her and Dorothy were on the porch, you know, and two colored girls and that is why those colored boys were around. So, Dorothy said, "Come on, Joanne let us go inside the house." Joanne came into the house and came out with a knife.

JM Joanne?

CM Joanne, Chaz's wife

JM Holy cow

CM So, she came out and somebody said something and she said, "You better get the hell out of here or I will cut your ass to shit " Needless to say, they ran

JM Wow

CM She stood up to them She said, "Why should I be afraid? Why should I show them that I am afraid?"

JM Yes, that is the worst thing that you could do.

CM Well, the Battalia girl, too, that family lived in a bad spot, on the corner of Elk Street and Meadow Street She used to have a paring knife in one pocket and black pepper in the other I do not know how she would get that but if someone

ever approached her she had that pepper

JM Throw in their face Wow that is interesting When you were living in Smokey Hollow, could you compare it to any other areas around Smokey Hollow that were similar to it, and the same kind of closeness like that?

CM No

JM Nothing?

CM No. Of course, some of them from Walnut Street, too, you know. They used to all come around It seemed like they all came to the corner of Watt and Adams Street How many of them used to go home and bring blankets and put them in my driveway Say it was hot, they would sleep there all night.

JM No kidding? All of the kids?

CM Yes, the kids or on the corner there that brick store that used to be there

JM I heard that Briar Hill was similar to Smokey Hollow?

CM Well, Briar Hill was but see, I only lived there six months.

JM Was it as close as Smokey Hollow was?

CM Yes I got to know them because I lived there through July, then I moved with my mother because the work slacked and he was getting like one or two days and it was not enough for us to pay rent or groceries But I got to know a lot of people in Briar Hill, the Joy family I got to know the Naples family because there was a grocery store that I used to do my shopping at when I lived up there

JM So it was similar to Smokey Hollow?

CM Yes I got to know some of those fellows. I used to go to dances. They used to live around Calvin Street

JM You lived in Smokey Hollow for a long time

CM Oh, yes From when I moved there in 1933 till November of 1979 That is when my son took me Somebody broke into my house when I was home

JM When you were living there people that did not live in Smokey Hollow, how did they think of people that lived down there?

CM Well, nobody moved

End of tape one

JM Can you remember any prejudice against people that lived in the Hollow. If you ever talked to somebody and they said, "I am from Smokey Hollow," did they look down on you?

CM Well, I do not think so. But anyway, down where we called it Hazeltown because there was that creek that was running from Lincoln Park

JM Yes, that is still there

CM: Hazeltown was here and on the other side of the creek was a whole bunch of Irish. They used to have fights. They would go down to the bottom of the hill and they would stand on top and throw rocks at one another and everything. That is why us girls used to be scared when we used to go to Roosevelt School, because that was the thing. We were from Hazeltown

JM So you really cannot remember anybody saying anything bad that did not live there?

CM No. Even Ester Hamilton had something in the paper

JM Yes

CM: But you never heard anything bad about anybody who lived in Smokey Hollow

JM That is good

CM In her column, that is when she was still writing here.

JM She used to write real positive things about the Smokey Hollow

CM: Yes. You never heard of anybody going to jail or anything like that until after when the trash started moving in

JM What role did the church play in Smokey Hollow?

CM What church?

JM Any church

CM Well, there was St. Cyril's Church, they had the Slovaks, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel had the Italians. Now I used to belong to St. Cyril's because my daughter Dorothy went all the way through from the third grade to the eighth grade. Then when Joanne was starting to go to school, of course my Dorothy was like twelve years old when I had my Joanne, and all of the friends from there were going to St. Columba Cathedral. So, I could not keep up with two churches, so she went

to St Columba School and Johnny went, and they both graduated from St. Columbus Then they went to East The father used to come down the house and then my son here, he wanted to go and be a priest when he was fourteen years old.

JM John?

CM Yes

JM No, kidding?

CM. And I said, "Johnny, wait until you go through high school and then, if you think you still want to go, still want to be a priest, then fine."

JM But then after high school he did not want to go?

CM No After he got to be sixteen years old, he never talked about it This began when he was only fourteen years old

JM Then the church was pretty strong in the Smokey Hollow?

CM Oh, yes

JM Everybody went to church?

CM You know Bishop Malone, he could tell you things about John or Joanne.

JM Oh, really?

CM Johnny, when he graduated, when they used to have the breakfast, and he said, "John, over here " I remember going down Rayen Avenue and there was old Joanne with her left hand beating her brother over the head with an umbrella Or even after they were out of the thing my mother was in the hospital, that was in 1956, and I was on the elevator and he got on with two other priests

JM Oh, he was a Father, that is right

CM Yes He looked and I said, "I know you know me but you cannot place me and I said I am Catherine Mascardine. I am Joanne and Johnnys' mother " He said, "Oh, that is right I am still waiting for that spaghetti dinner you were supposed to have me to."

JM He was a pretty powerful priest

CM Well, the first thing that they look for is if you had your crucifix

JM Oh, really?

CM You should have it over your doorway as you come in The Father came and he said, "I see no crucifix " I said, "There it is right over here on the wall." Because I had one of those that if somebody was sick and going to have their last Rites, you set it up because it was going to sit and there was the Holy Water and the candles

JM Did the church have any social functions for people down in the Hollow specifically? For example, St. Cyrils', did they have dances or get togethers?

CM Oh, yes They used to hold dances up on the third floor of the school, but if they would have bingo games, they had that under the church Our Lady of Mount Carmel, things used to be held under the church, but then they built that center I do not know what you call it It is too big of a word for me

JM Did you ever go to a place called the Dukka Della Brutes?

CM I went there to weddings That was an old building. They tore that down I was single when I used to go there

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes, whenever our friends got married my husband would know

JM. Were there a lot of weddings?

CM. Yes, and dances

JM We talked a little bit about recreation and some of the things that people did in the Hollow Were there any Hollow get togethers just for the people in the Hollow, like picnics or parties?

CM No The only thing that I know of is that we had a picnic when that Golden Eagle Club started, because my husband joined when it first started and we used to have the banquets once a year Then they used to have baseball games at Harrison Field, that is where we had a place to go every Sunday morning because they played baseball

JM Did you used to go and watch them?

CM Yes.

JM Did you ever, as far as family get togethers, did you ever take vacations?

CM: No

JM: Did you ever go to Idora Park with your family?

CM: Oh, we used to go, like GF used to have their day and friends of ours, my husband did not work there, but we would get the tags

JM: Did you ever go to Mill Creek Park a lot?

CM: When Dorothy was going to St. Cyrils', that is where they had the picnic and we went there. There was nothing down there but it was nice. Now you go down there and it is all black.

JM: As far as recreation, it was just family get togethers usually?

CM: Well, we had a family reunion years after.

JM: I have heard that people really did not get away from Smokey Hollow too much.

CM: No.

JM: A lot of family things were done right there in Smokey Hollow.

CM: The only thing that we had was that and then it was like the Spanish people played soccer in the afternoon.

JM: Did you used to go and watch fast-pitch softball anywhere? Oakland Fields?

CM: Oh, yes because of Chaz and my other son-in-law, Chuck Bittle. Both Charles' One was Chuck and one was Chaz. Both played softball. In fact, Dorothy's husband Chuck Bittle got inducted in the Hall of Fame for the softball.

JM: No kidding?

CM: Yes.

JM: Did he play for Steve Russo's?

CM: He played for Russo's. The last time that he played and he quit was for the VFW here in Hubbard at Hickory ball field. When he threw the first ball and that was it.

JM: He retired?

CM: The catcher came and gave him the ball and that was it. My God, he was sixty some years old by then.

JM Wow Your husband, did he play any sports down at Harrison Field?

CM No, but he was a bowler.

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes Especially, duck pins

JM What is that?

CM Duck pins were the little pins and when you threw the ball, there were no holes

JM Oh, you just rolled it down?

CM Hardly anybody got strikes Most of the things that you used to get was the splits

JM Did your husband play boccie?

CM No John is the boccie player

JM Living down there, do you think that there was any unaccepted people down there? Any unaccepted race or ethnic group?

CM No, everybody got along alright until when they started to come in I mean, the parents were probably alright but the kids that they were bringing up were lousy

JM Why do you think that people started to move out?

CM Well, after when it got too rough down there

JM Do you think?

CM Yes

JM When was that? Did a lot of your friends start to move out when you were still living down there?

CM Oh, yes the Goldner family, well she was Pagliardi, but they moved to out there to Wickcliffe

JM Do you think that people wanted to better themselves, do you think?

CM The whites yes, but not the blacks Boy you were afraid of saying anything. I remember one time, years ago, when my Dorothy was still going to school Of course, my husbands' mother lived on the corner of Watt and he was helping his

brother-in-law that was married to his sister and they were doing something with the car I sent my Dorothy to the store to get some onions or something and there was that two roomed house that a husband and wife lived there, Bernards' rented to them This colored bunch, there were about five of them in a car, and this one in the back, I do not know what he said, "What do you say, babe?" And I went to him like this Well, the car stopped and I ran into the house, I locked the door, the only thing I was worried about was Dorothy I said, "Oh, my God Dorothy, please do not start coming up the driveway." And I got the bibi gun. But that was the only thing that I could get. We had a thing but I could not go upstairs and go look for it I was there with the bibi gun and I came here and he asked the woman about me, because she was sitting on the porch you know, and she said, "I do not know I did not see nothing I was not looking "

JM: How old were you?

CM. I was married already. My Dorothy was about ten or eleven years old.

JM Okay

CM: They happened to pass by and they were not from the neighborhood and when he said, "Hey babe," I went like this to him and they stopped the car and he told the woman, "If I get her, I will cut her from ear to ear." And I could not yell for my husband because I would be in the driveway yelling and he would have probably come running up the driveway and God knows what he would have done to me

JM Wow Was there a lot of crime down there? Later on, maybe?

CM Later on, but down below at the end of Meadow Street and Watt Street and Elk Street. God, there was one guy that I do not know where he came from and he is sitting there and I happened to wonder why kids were looking at him He was sitting there on the corner of Watt and Adams Street and his arm was slit open, it was bleeding He probably thought that somebody had called the police

JM When stuff happened down there, crime-wise, did everybody know about who did it?

CM Well, if you did you did not say Right?

JM Yes

CM Me, I probably would Because my husband used to say, "You know, Catherine, every time you open up your mouth you get yourself in trouble "

JM Do you keep in touch with your friends that moved out from there a lot? Do you see them places?

CM No Especially now that I am here I do not see anybody now. When I lived on Hallored Street I used to take the Elms Street bus and for \$ 30 you used to get a transfer. Now they have the depot downtown and it is easy now, but before you used to have to stand behind what was McKelvies' and then it was Higbees', and then across the street there was a Park Gate and all of the colored boys used to hang around there. I do not know why they allowed that. Even my son-in-law, Chuck, he said, "You what?" He said, "You need your ass kicked " I used to go and see my sister and get the Buckeye Bus and it would take me to Brownlee Woods Or I would take the Market Street Bus and go all the way to Southern Park Mall What do you want for \$ 30 and a transfer? It was cheaper then Otherwise, that Annie Bernard, she still lived there and then she moved to the West side Everybody started moving Outside of that, Morella, she was married to one of the boys, well after what happened to me then she told her husband, "You either get me out of here or I am leaving."

JM No, kidding?

CM So, then they moved out and went on the South side

JM When you see your old friends, do you talk about Smokey Hollow?

CM Well, you know where you meet them? At funeral homes

JM Oh, really?

CM Hardly at weddings, because a lot of times I send the envelope if it is a close friend, but family weddings you go and you meet everybody We call it a Smokey Hollow reunion

JM Do you go to the reunions?

CM What reunions?

JM The Smokey Hollow reunions?

CM I did not go this last time Well, I was going to go this last time, but nobody called to let us know Not only me but there were others.

JM Do you feel bad?

CM Like the Vecharelli girls, nobody called them They put a little article in the Society page It was in on a Sunday a month before, and that was all See when she was a Nazerine, Rose Vivo, she is the one that started it with Dolores and Joanne Vecharelli, but one married a Cola and the other one married Pat Vechareli They started it They used to have it at Mr Anthony's Well, I did not

get called the first year but then we went the second year My two daughters and my sister Margaret, because she used to live down the Hollow, but it was at Mr Anthony's, which was real nice, but the year before last when that Margaret Fosessca took over and Dolores Lariccia, some of us did not the notice

JM It was a shamble?

CM It was all out of proportion But Mr Anthony's was nice because they had their own waitresses Well they had some young girls, which they should have said, "Now wait a minute, so many tables that is yours and you take these " But you know, they were running back and forth

JM It was not organized?

CM I was not going to go because I was so disgusted, and then the meal was not worth \$10 They did not have it this year at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

JM. Oh, they did not?

CM No, they had it here up at

JM Was it at the Wick Pollock Inn?

CM No, no, no It runs up Belmont Avenue there. What the hell is that name? Kingwood Manor It was there and they said that it was nice, but there was a lot that did not go, like Rose Vivo She did not go. And she did not go to the one when it was at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Another woman here, her name is Madeline, but she was an Orlando and she said, "Oh, I probably will go to that one " But she knew the whole Hollow because she was from the Hollow years back But then, see, I could not place her

JM· When you go to these things, does everyone talk about Smokey Hollow?

CM Well, yes This Dolores, her father was Mike Lariccia, when the Golden Eagles Club started her father was an officer He was the last one to die out of that bunch

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes In fact, I have a thing in my purse of all of the members that were there Wait a minute My husband had it in his billfold and I took it and put it in mine Here, these were the first members of the Golden Eagle Club

JM Wow What year was that?

CM It started in 1933, but they had the picture taken in 1934.

JM Wow

CM Now Louis Marnelli, he died first That is Butchie Anaco, but they called him Butchie. This was Auggie Italiano This was Herman Ross, his nickname was "Beans " This was my husband

JM That is your husband?

CM: Yes. This is Mike Lariccia. He was the last one to pass away, about two years ago This was Tommy Nunziato

JM These are the original members?

CM These are the original members These two were the Sargent of Arms and these were the Auditors This was the President, he was the treasurer or secretary

JM Is that your husband right there?

CM Yes, in the back

JM He was a good looking guy

CM Well, there is another picture here This is him when he applied in 1939 for citizen papers

JM Your husband?

CM Yes, they were charging \$25 That \$25 looked like \$250 to me Look at the difference when he did get his citizen papers?

JM Wow

CM He looked like a Greek Trumbolis, who had the confectionery store

JM Do you attend the war memorial when they have it?

CM Yes, but I did not go this year I usually go

JM What is that like?

CM It is nice They have the thing and the priest is there and they have a talk Last year or this year they called the name twice They will say, "Absent " Because they are dead Then they have the taps and when they play the taps, forget it Of

course, my brother, he was in the service He was the one that was in the Pattons' Army when they crossed the thing to Germany

JM The Rhine Oh, really?

CM He said, "The first thing that I looked for was a bathtub" because they were in a fox hole and the mess in there and they went and soaked in the bathtub. When they were all washed they broke the barrels and the beer was running all over the hotel and everything He came home safe, thank God. When he died, that is what they did

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes, because he belonged to the Veterans' And they blow the taps and then they shoot

JM The Twenty-One Gun Salute

CM That is what they do at the memorial

JM That is nice

CM It is sad

JM Yes

CM This was nice, but the only thing that they did not do and they should have was got themselves a place

JM They did not have a place?

CM To hold meetings?

JM Where did they hold the meetings at?

CM Well, one time they are at the Carpenters' Hall Whenever we had a Christmas party it was there on Rayen Avenue They had the meetings under that store that is on the corner of Court Street and Walnut Street It used to be Ciarnellos' Store, but now it is some Arab store So, they do not have it But there were only seven guys that were at the meetings, and my husband was one of them The only time that he was not there was if he had to work day turn on Sunday. But there would be the officers and maybe two or three other members there, and that is it

JM What kind of things did they do? Did they raise money for charity?

CM No Do you know where Harrison Field is?

JM Yes

CM Well, I do not know if that brick house is still there

JM Pavilion?

CM Now they used to hold their meetings there They should have bought that place and they could have had it Then when the younger bunch started getting in they used to come there and they used to bring their girlfriends during the night Who stole the television

JM Oh, my

CM See, it started getting bad and they broke up. Then during the war, that is when they had all of these trophies from the softball games and they had a bowling team, too Dom Conti has all of those trophies in his bar

JM He owned a bar back then?

CM Oh, his father did up there on Fifth Avenue, right off of Rayen Avenue and the thing was right there That is where they put all of the trophies and that is where the bunch used to hang out Then we started having our banquets at Mahoning Country Club and then they were down the Central Auditorium, it used to be called the Murel Room.

JM This is all of the Golden Eagles?

CM Yes, that is where we used to have our banquets and then they were tearing that building down so they took upstairs I used to go up there for dances and it was called Central Auditorium

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes We had to go on the second floor and then they made it the Murel Room But they had the Banquet rooms upstairs

JM Was there any organization for the women, other than the Golden Eagles?

CM We started to. We met only once

JM Oh, really?

CM We got together and had a card party, which we made enough money

JM That was it? Only once?

CM Now they have picnics I go sometimes and sometimes I do not They have Christmas parties also. The picnics and the Christmas parties are all free. Now at the banquets we get a crowd We should get a crowd for the free meals like we do the banquets

JM. How many people come to the reunion now?

CM There are quite a bit of people that come to the picnics and Christmas party. Now they started this treasure chest, they have sold a lot of tickets

JM To raise money?

CM Yes Well, last time we had it in September and the place was jammed

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes

JM That is good

CM. It was at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church The first time I went I won \$25 They hold weekly drawings They used to have it where they would meet once a month and they would see who would get the \$100 for three months and then the \$25 So, this is the first time that I went this year and I won. I usually would send someone else to get it, but I had to go and I had to go on the stage and pull it out The weekly drawings, they throw your capsule back in and here my two daughters were not saying nothing, and my daughter-in-law knew too because my number was 160 and they were calling and calling it They only sell two hundred and fifty tickets, so here my name got called two hundred and forty-fourth and then the one after me got the \$100 Then the next five come in for that \$1000

JM They call that the Reverse Raffle

CM But I do not like the way that they do it but that is the way that they do it The first four they pull out, the first four your name gets pulled out and you get \$150, then the last one in there gets \$400 I said, "They should take that and split that evenly " I do not care. I finally won \$25

JM If you look back, what is probably your most memorable experiences living down in Smokey Hollow?

CM What could I tell you?

JM Tough question?

CM What experience? You could not go anywhere, you did not have a car. The only thing was during the Depression, maybe all that we had was \$ 50, but see the Palace, they used to have live shows come in and name bands and everything. You would not know them.

JM No

CM I think that it has been torn down. Anyway, we did not care if we had bread in the house or nothing, but we used to go every Monday or Friday. My husband would stand to get the tickets and I would stand in line. As soon as the doors would open I used to grab him and we would run to get the fourth row. But we made sure that we went and we did not care if we had enough money for bread the next day or not. It was only \$ 25.

JM If you could change anything about living down there, what would it be?

CM Well, if I could have changed anything I would have never moved back.

JM From the first time that you left?

CM Yes. I would have never moved in with my in-laws'. My father-in-law was pretty good but his wife. We went to the funeral at the cemetery, you know, and my husband had passed away and John and I went. So, I still bought flowers and he put it where Mary and Joseph were. Well, Mary died first and then Joseph, and he put the flower pot on her name and I took the flower pot and put it on his.

JM Wow

CM Now I do not go.

JM Do you ever go down to Smokey Hollow now?

CM There is nothing there. My house is torn down.

JM Really?

CM Yes. From the thing there is only the Zones', they are related to the Veccharelli's, and then there is the colored family, Brian. They were real good friends with you know and he was a Deacon at his church. When winter, he knew my husband could not do it, he cleaned the snow off of our step and made him a path to go to the car where he would open the door to get in. Also, in the summertime.

JM Cut the grass?

CM Yes, with the lawn mower in the backyard We did not have too much of a front yard Or if I went on vacation for two weeks, I used to go with my sister and her husband to Florida or wherever, he would come and keep my husband company

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes

JM That is nice Do you go down to Smokey Hollow at all anymore? Just to drive through?

CM What for? There is nothing there There is nobody there that I know

JM How about just to drive through?

CM Oh, well we go past there, yes

JM What kinds of feelings do you get? Do you feel sad?

CM Well, my Lord, even my older daughter she will say, "Ma, how in the world did all of those houses fit because it looks like a little plot of land?" My Brian's house is still there Lefores', mine, DiNuci's, Nazerines' store, the big brick building in the back in where they used to bake the bread Then in the back of Nazerines' there was a big garage Then there was a house next to the brick building and another house on the corner Now where did all of those houses fit in that little spot?

JM They just fit them all right in there

CM And yet we were not packed

JM Oh, really?

CM. Yes We were not squeezed in or anything Somebody told me that there were only five houses left on the upper part of Adams Street, it was somebody at the funeral home when I was there and my sister was laid out there The Youngstown State University bought all of those homes We thought that they were going to come down our way

JM Oh, really?

CM But that Starks', who was the Second Ward Councilman, said, "That Youngstown State University was making it a slum area out of our place "

JM Oh, really? Where did he live?

CM He isn't a councilman anymore.

JM Did you hear about Youngstown State University ever wanting to build their football stadium down there?

CM Yes We were hoping for that

JM Oh, really?

CM But then they said that they would have to put in all of those sewers and whatever

JM Oh

CM Look what happened after the thing was one or two years old, they had to dig the pipes because they were all rotten and the water lines

JM Yes. You were hoping that they would build the football stadium down in the Hollow?

CM Oh, we were hoping for that

JM Around what year was that?

CM I did not care what they gave me, I would not have argued.

JM Oh, really?

CM Whatever they would give I would have taken

JM Did you know Mayor Ungaro?

CM I knew him when he was born See, they moved out They built a home on Samson Drive They used to still come to Nazerines' store to shop And she said, "Do you know what? I am sorry that I ever moved "

JM No, kidding?

CM It was not very long after that she died of cancer

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes Then her husband died of cancer, too

JM Did you know Edward J DeBartolo? The father?

CM No, but his father used to live on Elks Street or Wood Street.

JM So, that would be Edward J DeBartolo Sr 's father?

CM Yes

JM Did you know the Warner Brothers? The ones that owned the films?

CM No, those were Jew's, how did I know them? They were from the North side

JM. Oh, really?

CM You mean the Warner's that owned the film company?

JM Yes.

CM No

JM I heard that they were from the Smokey Hollow

CM No, who said that they were from Smokey Hollow?

JM That is what I heard That they were born and lived down there for a while, then they must have moved out, maybe

CM Well, probably they could have been from Wick Avenue or something, but it was not down there.

JM Yes, maybe How about Tony Geniro, the boxer?

CM No, but his brother lived down there because he is married to one of the girls from Smokey Hollow.

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes His brother was a boxer, too

JM Yes

CM He lived right there in that apartment next door to where my sister Margaret lived

JM Over all, was it a pretty positive experience living down there in Smokey Hollow?

CM Oh, you know that Vitullo, he used to be a Councilman and then there was so many damn bakers there His father had a baker shop Then there was

DiGiacomo and they had a thing right caddy corner where Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church is, where the parking lot is on this side of Dukka Della Brutes. He had an Italian store where they had all of the prosciutto and Italian things. Then his brother-in-law had a store on the corner across the street from St Cyril's Church on Wood Street. Then there was a store next to St Cyril's school, they were the Fortunato's, but they went by the name of Ford

JM Did you know Dom Rosselli?

CM Yes, I knew Dom Rosselli. That is the one where they lived in the house that I moved in after.

JM Yes

CM I know Dom real good I knew the old man real good. He had that Model A Ford, the coupe with no doors on. The doors were off

JM Really?

CM But you ought to see that car go

JM Did you know Lou Rosselli?

CM Yes See, they moved out of town

JM Dom lives in Poland now Can you think of anything that I might have left out that was important to living down in the Smokey Hollow?

CM I do not know I will probably remember after you leave Like my daughter Dorothy said to me, "Ma, do you remember last week?" And I said, "Well, gee Dorothy, I do not know " And she said, "Well, what did you do when you were five years old?" I can tell them what I did The whole neighborhood was looking for me They could not find me

JM Oh, really?

CM Yes, and at that time I had nice wavy, golden blonde hair The whole neighborhood was looking for me There was the Armeni's Store on South Center Street, they had one of those Italian stores, because when I lived with my mother for one year, I used to go there and shop for whatever I needed They used to sell live chickens and you know what the chicken coops looked like?

JM Yes

CM Well, I crawled in there

JM In the chicken coops?

CM They could not find me Finally, somebody wanted a chicken and Mr Armeni came

JM There you were

CM Yes

JM Wow

CM My mother said she did not know whether she should hug me to death or to kill me. Everybody was looking You never used to hear about those things When I went to Hazelton Public School there was this one family, Brian, and another one was Queenie Pride and she worked with my husband at the Sheet & Tube She killed her husband so they put her in the penitentiary But this lady Ryan, she had two boys, and I ran into her years later and she looked at me and I looked at her. My niece used to work at June Dale Meat Market, it used to be across the street from Powers Auditorium, that used to be the Warner Theater, and she heard Bengala, and she said, "Wait a minute. Do you have a sister Catherine?" And my niece said, "No, that is my husband's aunt " So, here sure enough I ran into here in the Woolworth's on East Federal Street there right on the corner of Champion and thing Well, one Woolworth was up further, it was a big one I looked at her, Josey Brian, here she had two boys One is an orthodontist and the other one is a lawyer

JM Wow

CM They lived on Rayen Avenue I walked home with them for lunch because I lived clear up there closer to the hill Then, if I got through with, lunch I used to sit on the porch until they got through But the other one, that Queenie Pride, she worked with my husband and she shot her husband.

JM As far as Smokey Hollow goes, can you think of anything else?

CM No

JM Well, okay thank you

End of Interview