

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Smokey Hollow

Personal Experience

O.H. 1380

ROSE D'AMICO

Interviewed

by

Joseph Mancini

on

October 11, 1990

ROSE (PALAMARA) D'AMICO

Rose D'Amico was born September 3, 1916 in Youngstown, Ohio. She grew up in Smokey Hollow at 718 North Walnut Street from 1916 to 1956. Her father, Bartholomew, sold groceries near the railroad tracks that ran alongside the Hollow. He worked for Goldberg's Grocery Store. Rose was one of four girls in the family. She attended Rayen High School and graduated in 1934. She married Bert D'Amico in 1936 and they continued to live at 718 North Walnut Street. Bert was employed at John Toth's Grocery Store and then became a police officer for Republic Steel in the 1940's. He then began his own business called American Insulation which was located on the lower North side of Youngstown.

Rose D'Amico bought a grocery store in Smokey Hollow in 1951 which was located on the corner of Walnut and Kirtland Avenues. They owned the store for about one year. Rose was and still is, a member of Mount Carmel Catholic Church and taught Catrechism for about twenty-five years. She is a member of St. Monicas Guild and a Senior Citizen of Mount Carmel. Bert and Rose D'Amico were very charitable while living in the Hollow. Bert played Santa Clause for thirty-five years in the hospitals in Youngstown.

Rose D'Amico had two daughters. Carol (D'Amico) Vecharelli, who was born in 1939 and now owns Vecharelli Designs which is located on the North side of Youngstown. Nancy (D'Amico) McGarry lives in Youngstown and is employed at Vecharelli Designs and works for the Youngstown Board of Education.

Rose D'Amico moved out of Smokey Hollow in 1956 and now

resides on the North side of Youngstown at 105 Upland Avenue. She still attends the annual reunion of Smokey Hollow Residents held each year and participates in the fixing up of the Smokey Hollow War Memorial.

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INTERVIEWEE: ROSE D'AMICO

INTERVIEWER: Joseph Mancini

SUBJECT: Life in Smokey Hollow; ethnic backgrounds; the church and its influence; memorable experiences

DATE: October 11, 1990

M: This is an interview with Rose Marie D'Amico for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the Smoky Hollow, by Frank Mancini, on October 11, 1990, at 105 Upland Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio, at 7:35 p.m.

First of all can you tell me a little bit about yourself, where you were born, and where you grew up, your birthday and schooling just to start off?

D: I was born 718 North Walnut Street, which is about a block and a half away from what we call the Cement Wall. Right now they are using it for parking lots for Youngstown State University students. The houses have been demolished and the only standing one is a cement house where I later had my oldest daughter born, and that was at 707 North Walnut Street and across from 718 at that time. It seemed like the Post Office was having a hard time with the numbers of the houses and two or three times our addresses were changed.

Carol was born in 1941 and we lived in what we called a "Community Circle." My mother was across the street in the house where I was originally born and I bought the house on the other side. At that time these were two cement houses that were Truscon Steel experimental homes and when you saw them being torn down for Youngs-

town State Univeristy you could understand why there was no wooden beams in the whole building. Everything was still lath. They had a terrible time taking these down. Then as the years went by and in 1951 there was a grocery store on the corner, which I bought and in Smoky Hollow, in our section of it, it was almost all Slovian and almost all of them were members of St. Serial Matthodius Church.

We belonged to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. After awhile there came four Italian families in that one block and that included the Teriaca's, the Nunziato's, myself-the D'Amico's, and there was a lady there at that time...Today people would have cringed at her, but she saved a lot of girls in trouble during the war. She was the midwife of the neighborhood. These were all girls that were from... At what is now General Motors, I forgot what it was. But there husbands were in the service and they were fooling around, and Mrs. Dingham is her name, she has since died. She was a Romanian woman. She took care of everybody in the hollow. She was our next door neighbor and we could see them coming and going. It was really something at that time.

M: What did your parents do for a living?

D: My father worked down on the railroad tracks with Goldberg Produce and at that time he didn't read or write and he was lucky to have a labor job. At that time it was Depression and we lived on the old vegetables and stuff that they cleaned out of the box cars down on Front Street. That is what our foreign people did and quite a few of them were Italian people that we knew. This was the extent of there education.

My father raised a family of four girls. He was a good-loving father, but he was dedicated to his garden and to his fig trees in the fall where they buried them. This was a ritual with people in the Smoky Hollow. And when you got those trees and you got your figs...If there were ten figs on that tree every cumarda got two figs. That is the way that they did with the figs.

On Sunday morning we walked from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and everybody had there doors opened and you could smell the sauce and Walnut Street coming all the way from Summit Avenue. Everybody made macaroni sauce on that day, Sunday morning.

M: What do you think made the Hollow such a unique place to live? I mean you could look at the Hollow like it is now, but back then when you lived there what made it so unique?

D: It was so unique because you could walk into anybody's house at 11:30 or 11:45 and they would say, "Sit down and eat with us." It was a family neighborhood. Everybody loved everybody. I don't care who it was. You shared everything.

I remember across the street where the Nuziato's lived and the mailman used to get a big kick out of...About 10:00 or 10:30 a.m. he would come by and I would come out on the porch and I would yell to Antionette across the street, "The pot is hot." And everybody came out and we had coffee. That is the way that it was.

M: Was there ever any problems with that? I mean people coming in and out of houses?

D: No, you never had a problem. I remember our girls when it would be so warm we would put the comforters on the porch and they would sleep on the porch and everybody in the neighborhood would come up and we had everybody's kids sleep on our porch. It was a great time and it was nothing if you knew that the circus was coming to town for me to call all the neighbors and tell them. I was the only one who had a car and by 3:00 a.m. all of the kids had their pajamas on and they would have a dukkie, which we would call a sandwich and we would go and watch the circus come in. I believe that it was Mahoning Avenue where we would park the car and I would take all of the kids at 3:00 in the morning and we were not afraid to do a thing. It was fun. And everyone of those kids still have fond memories of that, because nobody does any of these things anymore.

M: Was it like this for your whole life span you lived down there?

D: Oh, yes. Anything that we did we shared. If it was a fun thing or if it was sadness we shared it.

M: That is interesting because you don't see that anymore.

D: No, but we shared everything. We had people that while standing in the neighborhood...Like I said about this Mrs. Dingham everybody knew her as a wonderful woman. People pointed out people that they did for each other. It was nothing someone to call and say, "I made extra pasta fagoli." Today, they call it a gourmet dish. At that time it was a poor man's dish.

M: Yes, that is right.

D: But at that time when you say meat I don't think too many of us ever knew what more than two or three pork chops would be. If you had a family of five people you bought two or three pork chops and that was it. And you

shared. Everybody shared everything.

M: So, was that basically during the Depression or was it after?

D: It was a poor neighborhood throughout our growing up days.

M: Oh, throughout the whole.

D: I can't say that it was a rich neighborhood. I can't say that and be honest. I am trying to think...Everybody came out of it. Take the Nuziato boys, there were four of them, and they had all become lawyers, three of them are lawyers, and Ron works with the Arson & Narcotics Squad, he is with them.

M: Can you describe what your house looked like physically inside and outside?

D: Inside, we were thrilled when we had graphite on our window ledges, because that meant that the mills were working. You know graphite?

M: Soot.

D: It was the red soot and we used to call it the red rain. We were happy to see that on our window ledges outside. On your porch my mother had black enamel. It was nothing for the women to paint or to wallpaper because you couldn't afford to hire anybody.

M: How about the inside? How did it look physically?

D: The inside it was always nice and clean. We washed walls every three weeks.

M: Because of the soot?

D: Because of the dirt and soot. We had coal furnaces. I have no problem because I never had to worry about a gas furnace. I mean you never have soot or dirt, but we were grateful for it because it meant that the men were working.

M: Was it a typical house compared to other peoples?

D: Yes, we had the three rooms downstairs. You had your parlor. You had your large dining room and a nice size kitchen. You had one bath and you were lucky if you had a shower in the basement. If you didn't have a shower in the basement you used an old hose and made your shower.

M: No kidding?

D: Oh, sure.

M: Wow.

D: You didn't have all of these luxuries.

M: We may have touched on this a little bit but what about the quality of life?

D: The quality of life was great. I remember one woman in Oak Park having a baby and her husband had died and I couldn't stand it so I called all of my friends and we got together and we had a baby shower and this baby now is about forty-five or fifty years old and when I told her who I was she said, "You know my mother told me the story about how you got all of my diapers together and everything." But I couldn't stand it that this woman had nobody to help her. And the same when...You shouldn't say that your being prejudice but when Chester Amedia was running on the school board and somebody made the remark to me, "There is no room on a school board for an Italian." Well, that got me excited. So, I called Antoinette Nunziato and we went through the whole Smoky Hollow touching every door and if you met Chester Amedia today he will tell you about what we did for him.

M: Did you get him elected?

D: We got him elected and don't tell me that there is no room for an Italian. He was a smart man. I didn't know him from a bag of beans but I knew that he needed help.

In the Hollow you had all foriegn speaking people. Especially, when you came to Carlton Street, Adams Street, and Oak Park there were an awful lot of Slovaks, like I said they all belonged to St. Serial Matthodius and they were very strict in their religion. They all went to St. Serial School. At that time the cost of Catholic school was high and we couldn't afford it. Our kids all went to Madison, Hayes, and Rayen. And we walked rain or shine.

I remember my girlfriend had a book of stamps, at that time you bought a book of bus tickets, but she wanted to walk and she walked in the heaviest snow of 1934 and she got pneumonia and almost died because she sold her tickets and wanted to walk to school with us.

M: No kidding?

D: That is Dom Conti's wife. She sold all of her school tickets and she ended up being as sick as a dog, but we graduated.

M: Was this feeling of helping each other was it generally throughout with all of the people?

D: Yes, yes.

M: Nobody really...

D: No. I remember every Labor Day we would go down the street and Mrs. Carlini had bushels and bushels of tomatoes and we would go down and help her to can tomatoes because it was fun to be with everybody. We loved being part of everything. Everybody felt like that.

M: That is interesting.

D: It is unusual.

M: It is. What were the general occupations of most of the people that lived down there?

D: The Steel Mill.

M: Mostly everybody worked in the Mill?

D: Yes, and if you got a job at the GF you were lucky. Everybody got somebody in. Everybody had a cumbarda. Everybody had help to get into the GF. The GF was the place to get into. Bert, my husband was on the railroad and he originally worked at Toth's. John Toth was at the end of Walnut Street Hill below the railroad tracks and he was working in the grocery department at that time in 1936. He was making \$22.50 a week and that is what we got married on.

M: Wow.

D: \$22.50 a week.

M: And you didn't work at the time?

D: No. You couldn't get a job and I didn't want to work. I liked my life.

M: Did you work during the war?

D: No. I never worked. I liked to knit and croche and I did stuff and I had kids that would come to the house and I would teach them how to knit and everything but we didn't do anything for money. It was never a money proposition. I did a lot of sewing. I remember how poor we were. I took my mother's cellar curtains down and I made a blouse out of them.

M: No, kidding. That is sort of like Gone with the Wind.

D: Oh, yes we did. This is the way life was and we didn't know any different. We didn't feel under privileged. And it was nothing for us if somebody in a better financial state in the world to give us hand-me-downs. We didn't mind. Today, kids would shutter if you said it, but at that time it didn't bother any of us and we were four girls growing up and I'm the eldest. I was born in 1916 and Lucille was born in 1924 that is how much age difference there was between her and I. There were four us girls in that period of time and there was not such thing as having a dryer you helped to carry everything out on Monday morning those sheets and pillow cases were hung on the line.

M: Not like the comforts of today.

D: No, you had nothing. No luxuries. You scrubbed the floor on your hands and knees. But you didn't have the nice linolieum floors like we use.

M: You talked a little bit about the ethnic backgrounds of the people, but can you discuss a little bit how well they got along or if there were ever any conflicts between the differences.

D: There were never any differences. I learned...We lived in a Jewish neighborhood besides and I learned to speak German-Jewish with them. I remember when we bought the store that it was nothing for me to be able to talk to the Jewish customers as they came in and asked them what they wanted in Jewish. I would ask them in Jewish "what do you want."

M: Oh, really?

D: Yes. This is the way that it was. And you knew which ones were only going to buy one or two eggs. They didn't buy a dozen of eggs. They bought one or two eggs at a time because they didn't have money.

M: No kidding.

D: That is the way that it was.

M: Did you give a lot of credit in the store?

D: Yes.

M: I once heard that those stores down there gave a lot of credit.

D: Yes, that is why I lost \$10,000 in six months. I did.

M: Wow, from giving credit?

D: Well, sure because people were poor. They owed me \$5,000 and I borrowed \$5,000 and that made \$10,000. When you got through you were lucky and of course Bert, my husband, hated the grocery work because his mother had a stre all of her life and at that time he was caddying at the country club making \$.75 a day and he took it home to his mother and that was carrying two bags at a time for eighteen holes and he was getting \$.25.

M: Wow.

D: That is how they got a loan and nobody thought different of it.

M: That is amazing.

D: And what they did for excitement is they would have a handful of pennies and they would pitch pennies up against a building and that is how they had excitement.

M: So, there was really no conflict between them?

D: No. Then Harrison Field, where all of the boys hung out is where Youngstown State University now has their practice field.

M: I think that it is their intramural field now.

D: Right. I think it is where the band is.

M: Okay.

D: That is where all of the nice looking boys were and we would make sure that we would go by there every night. And the boys would whistle and if they didn't do that we would feel like we didn't strike anybody's eye.

M: Is that how you met your husband?

D: No. I knew my husband all of my life but we started going together dancing at the Elms Ballroom, and that is where everybody in the Hollow went because we could walk it. We walked up through Wick Oval, do you know where Wick Oval is?

M: Yes.

D: Alright our house was right below there and there was a stairway that went up in through there and we would come home at midnight or 1:00 in the morning through Wick Oval and would never be afraid.

M: No kidding.

D: Our house was right below there and we would know if my mother's light was on that she was waiting for us.

M: With a grin on your face. That is interesting. What ways do you think that the Hollow prepared you for like how you live now or how it gave you certain values?

D: The Hollow prepared me to love everybody and when I see them I get so excited. I went up to Akron last week on Sunday and I met Carol, my daughter and my girlfriend, Martha Temesko, who lived on Curtlain and went to St. Serial's and her mother thought that the Italian girls up the street were bad examples for her daughter. She wouldn't let her daughter go out too much. Well, I saw Martha in Akron last week and we talked for a whole solid hour. She did it all because she was just as excited as I was so I couldn't get a word in. She said that all she could remember was her mother saying, "You can't go out tonight unless you go up to Rose Palamara's house." She was allowed to come up there because we were four girls.

We had some very nice Jewish neighbors. They were very nice. The only thing was they couldn't cook bacon or any kind of pork at any time in their house so they would bring it up to our house and cook it and there "Bubba," which means grandmother, never knew that they ate pork.

M: No kidding?

D: When it was their holiday in the Jewish holiday in the Hollow you did not lite your own stove or oven or furnace and my father would go on Friday night for \$.25 and he would lite everything for them. He did everything for them because they weren't allowed to do that because it was against their religion and you did not wash dishes. If you did you used no soap you washed in clear water. Also, in their religion they had two sets of dishes. One was a milk dish and the other was a meat dish. You didn't mix the two of them. That was another thing in the Hollow we had an awful lot of Jewish neighbors and you learned that when you went into their homes. If you were going to have a glass of milk you dare not have a meat sandwich. You don't mix those two. I think that today they still go through that, the ones that are real religious.

M: It is interesting to listen to you talk about and know a lot about the Jewish life. Do you think that the Jewish people took anything from your Italian ethnicity and remember any of it? Was it an equal kind of a thing?

D: Oh, sure.

M: Did they understand your practices?

D: Sure, they respected us.

M: You respected each other.

D: They respected our religion and we respected theirs. And the biggest thrill that we got was Hanukkah, Pass-over. All of the stores were closed and they lived down in Oak Park, which is off of Walnut Street there and Kirkland and they wore the most beautiful clothes and everything at that time was in fall colors of brown, dark green, black and purple. They were dressed gorgeous and we couldn't wait till they went to "Shul", which means church. And we couldn't wait until 1:00 p.m. when they would come by our house and we would wait to see what all of them had on and they wore beautiful clothes. It was a colorful time growing up.

M: In these ethnic backgrounds was there any group that had a higher economic status than any other group?

D: If they did we never recognized it.

M: Never recognized it?

D: We never made them feel different. I learned how to play with the Jewish women because they always needed a fourth and I was the only one that they could ever haul in. I hated it but I enjoyed it and I learned a lot from them. They were good to me. When I would have to go out with Bert it was nothing for this particular Jewish woman whose name was Anna Been, the whole family has died of cancer. The father, mother, and the sister was a doctor and there are two grandchildren that are in Cleveland and their name is Fertman. Reisman is the other daughter. They are doctors in Cleveland today. I don't know if I would ever recognize them if I would see them, but their family if I needed to go out with Bert and they wanted me to be dressed up they would loan me a dress with the price tags on it. They were wonderful and generous people.

M: Wow.

D: Just beautiful people.

M: That respect that you had down there in the Hollow for each other, now have you taken it out...

D: Has it carried over-yes. When I see my old friends from

the Hollow...I saw one at Carol's the other day and her mother was the most beautiful red-headed Bunulase and everything I learned, making Italian cookies and sewing those women taught me. They were very generous with whatever they had to give of themselves. They were wonderful.

M: You are talking about names were there any names that were changed in order to help you get jobs and make your names less ethnic?

D: No.

M: Everybody really kept their names and nobody shortened their names?

D: No. My sister was Rudnytsky and when she met her husband he went by Rogers but when they got married it was Rudnytsky and it continued to be Rudnytsky. Chance is Uncle Henry. And D'Amico stayed D'Amico. The only thing was that the spelling was different when we got different. His father coming from Italy had it Domico because the teachers didn't know anything different, but it was D'Amico. It means "the friend." Then they changed the one gravestone to D'Amico.

M: How about throughout the Hollow did you ever hear of anybody changing their names do you remember?

D: Not that I know of. The only know of, and he doesn't belong to the Hollow, he has one name and his mother and father had another name, he is Jack Campbell.

M: Okay, but there was no shortening in order to get a job?

D: No, that was the only person that I knew that changed their name.

M: Is it possible to compare the Hollow from when you lived there till now where you live on the Northside of Youngstown? Can you make any comparisons or contrasts to it?

D: The only comparison that I make is I miss the neighborhoods and I miss people going by your house and saying, "Hey, Rose what are doing in there." I miss that but outside of that I am so busy I can't miss a thing.

M: How about at the time when you lived in the Hollow? Was there any other area around in the Youngstown area that was considered like the Hollow? For example, I heard that there were other areas that had the same...

D: Briar Hill.

- M: Briar Hill had the same kind of community?
- D: But we all went to school together and to this day we are great friends. If you say did you miss your friendships or anything like that we are greater friends now from going to school together. I see a girl at the beauty shop at Nancy's on Tuesday and she and I graduated together and we hug and kiss all of the time, yet in school we weren't that great but now it is such a thrill to see her. And like this girl that I met in Akron last week, they are all girls that graduated in 1934 and I can tell you a lot of the boys...For example, Dom Rosselli...Well his brother Heck was already graduated. I think that Dom graduated in 1935. It was nothing for us to walk down a hill and go up Scott Street with our lunches wrapped in newspaper you had no wax paper then, and you had pepper sandwiches and all of the grease would be coming out and by the time that we got to Rayen School, now that is three miles. We would cut across Wick Park and went down Ohio Avenue and by the time that we got to Rayen School those sandwiches were wrapped with string and they were soaked. But everybody wanted those sandwiches and everybody loved out pepper sandwiches.
- M: So, you can sort of compare Briar Hill to the same kind of ethnic community?
- D: Oh, definitely. They were all the same group of people in Briar Hill and they are all very close to each other yet. Because I talked to a girl today and I asked her if she went to a certain funeral and she said, "Oh, my God yes Rose. We all grew up together." And that is the way the people in Briar Hill feel. "We grew up together."
- M: That is interesting.
- D: If you take the young people of today nobody says that.
- M: No, you really don't hear that.
- D: No, you don't hear that.
- M: It was an interesting area. While you were living down there how do you think that people who didn't live in that area viewed the residence of the Smokey Hollow? For example, were they an economically lower class?
- D: They felt that we were beneath them.
- M: Oh, did they?

D: I am sure they did, but you know that they didn't have the fun with their children growing up because I can remember that it was nothing for us to get through with our dishes in the evening and everybody would say, "We are going over to Palamara's and do our homework." And that is the way that is was everybody gathered to do homework together. We weren't always the smartest kids.

M: So, you think that the people that didn't live there viewed you as a lesser class?

D: Right.

M: How did that make the people in the Hollow feel?

D: It never bothered me.

M: Do you think that it bothered any other people or your friends?

D: No, we are still good friends.

M: I mean did it bother your friends in anyway? Do you remember any instances?

D: I don't think so because they did exactly what I did. If we went to the Elms they came to the Elms. If we went window shopping they went window shopping, That was our Sunday afternoon to go window shopping. That is what we did. There was no television or radio. First of all us girls were stupid we should have learned how to like football then and then we would have followed the boys.

M: How do you feel about the Smoky Hollow today? Have you been down there?

D: Oh, I get excited. Sometimes I drive down there twice a week.

M: Do you?

D: Oh, sure.

M: How does it make you feel to see some of the houses gone?

D: My house is still there.

M: Oh, is it really?

D: Our's is the only one down on that end of Walnut

Street.

M: No kidding?

D: It is the yellow cement house that is sand colored.

M: How does it make you feel driving by there?

D: I can't imagine living in there. I went back there once. I used to wash that rug, which was a tone on tone gray rug, every two or three weeks and I would have newspaper all over. You couldn't walk into my house because that is how dirty everything got.

M: Wow. Do you have any feeling toward living there?

D: I can't imagine living there. I had claustrophobia. When I walked into that house I wanted to run. I couldn't imagine living there.

M: What role did the church play in the life of the Hollow, whether it was a Catholic Church or a Jewish Synagogue.

D: Well, the Jewish Synagogue was on top of the hill and us kids everytime we would go to confession on Saturday we would go by the Jewish Synagogue and we would close our mouth real tight and run because we didn't know what was coming at us. They had swinging doors and we would open the door and we would scream in there. We were terrible. But they were nice people. They were good to us.

M: How about the Catholic Church?

D: The Catholic Church...Well, I started so young with it just helping out and cleaning and doing the altar and by the time I turned around I found myself teaching all of the classes at one time.

M: Which classes?

D: From the first grade up to Confirmation.

M: This is catechism?

D: Yes, catechism on Sunday morning. And people would say to me, "Shh, don't talk so loud." But I was talking over the organ, choir, and over a priest that was hard of hearing. This was all of your catechism groups together.

I remember I saw the boy, a month ago, and he now has a big band in the south and I said to him, "Now, I am going to ask you a question, did you ever get me that

touchdown?"

M: What was that?

D: He came to catechism and he was going to make his First Communion and he wanted to be excused. He did get there on time. This is Dr. Di Piero's son. He now has a band in the south. I think he is near to where Elvis Presley was.

M: Near Nahville?

D: Yes. He married a Jewish girl and I saw him about a month ago at Father Fabrizio's party and I said to him, "I want to know did you ever get me that touchdown?" I told him, "You will be allowed to be excused. . ." He was playing football. "If you get me a touchdown."

M: No kidding? Was it for high school?

D: Yes, it was high school. And I said to him, "If you get me a touchdown you could be excused." And the way I taught the children and the nuns said to me later, "Rose, you had a wonderful idea." I said, "You are too technical." I said, "Play football with them." I was teaching them the Ten Commandments. You give Joe Mancini the ball and tell him to carry down and what is the first Commandment? And by the time we got through each kid wanted to know that Commandment and that football game was played. I said to the nuns, "You have to talk street talk to them. You can't make it so technical that they are afraid of them."

M: Was this all of the kids that were from the Smoky Hollow? Was this Our Lady of Mount Carmel?

D: This was Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Albert Street children. They were from the Smoky Hollow and from the East side. All down in the Hollow on Willard Street, Elk Street and all of those streets where everybody came from.

M: Those were the kids that took your class?

D: Oh, yes.

M: Do you see anybody any more today?

D: Oh, yes. I saw a boy the other day. I saw a girl the other day and she said, "Rose, you don't remember me." Everybody says that to me that like. I said, "Well?" She said, "You were my teacher." She is now the head nurse at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and her name is Mary Lou Pelley Carbon and she was from the Hollow.

M: And she remembered you?

D: She told her mother, she said, "Mom, if Rose D'Amico collapses right now I will genuflect." She said that every time she clapped we genuflected and if they were coming down the aisle in church they would dare some and go off on that aisle.

M: You had them huh?

D: I felt...Like this one guy said to me, he said, "Rose D'Amico do you remember me?" I said, "No." He said, "These are my two sons." I almost died. He said, "But I am going to tell you something, nobody has learned catechism like you taught us." Well, I taught them that when they came in God's house and you have the Holy Water Fount...Do you know what a Holy Water Fount is for?

M: Me?

D: Yes.

M: Isn't where you dip your hand in? I am not sure.

D: You dip your hand in but it was because the peasant came out of the pasteur of the field's and they were dirty and they washed themselves. You never came in God's house unless you were clean. And when you walked down the isle in church and you look up and you see that white dove up there-what is that? That is the Holy Ghost. Every thing in there is for a reason.

M: In Mount Carmel?

D: In any church.

M: Oh, in any church.

D: You have to start looking for them because they are moving things around, but when you came into church there was something for every thing.

M: That is interesting.

D: I had to laugh because Father Krigley was talking the other day and a couple of things that he said I said to him, "Father, why are we not when they ring the chimes saying 'Oh, Lord, my Jesus?'" They don't do this anymore. But you see that the children have lost so much of the church.

M: But it was strong in the Hollow back then?

D: Oh, very much it was strong. And if you didn't go to church on Sunday your whole family suffered because everybody looked at you like you were a nothing.

M: No, kidding?

D: Everybody went to church.

M: Wow.

D: Some kind of church.

M: Did you see any other churches that were strong like this?

D: Yes. Now the Lutheran Churches were strong. On Saturday morning those children went to the Lutheran Church, especially the boys. I remember them going to church.

M: How about any Orthodox or Greek-Orthodox?

D: Not too many Greek-Orthodox in there.

M: How about Russian-Orthodox?

D: No, there weren't too many there, but we did have the Greek-Orthodox Church on top of Walnut Street Hill and it is still there today.

M: Yes.

D: That church is strong with very wealthy Greek people.

M: Did the churches have a lot of functions down in the Hollow? Did they do a lot of social things down in the Hollow or did you just go to church?

D: No, there was a "Dukka Della Brutes" on Sumitt Avenue. It was an Italian Lodge. In fact Saturday night they will have a Columbus Day Banquet and a lot of people will be going to that and it originated with the "Dukka Della Brutes."

M: So, there were a lot of things that happened there?

D: Yes, on Sumitt Avenue across from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church there was a hall.

M: I know where that is at. What kinds of things did they do in there?

D: Well, that has been torn down now and it is a parking lot but tonight they are having a steak fry and on Saturday they will have the Columbus Day Banquet and they will name the man and lady of the year.

M: From the Hollow?

D: Dom Celino, years ago was from the East side on Albert Street. Don Celino is the detective. We call him "Big Dom." And the girl is Alice Rossi, she was from Cashes Avenue at one time.

M: Back when you lived in the Hollow were there functions like that?

D: No.

M: Nothing like that?

D: No.

D: Not now considering Mount Carmel, back when you lived in the Hollow were there a lot of things?

D: No, you didn't do too many things that kept you out after 9:00 p.m..

M: Really?

D: The only thing was if there was a big dance on Sunday night we all went.

M: Was that affiliated with the church?

D: That could have been with the church dance and it might have been \$1.00. If it was \$1.00 it was a lot of money.

M: Where there any other inter-Hollow functions like parties or picnics that just the people from the Hollow organized? For example, the Fourth of July?

D: No, not really.

M: Was it all family?

D: It was all family. We went on a lot of family picnics but we ended up in five or six cars and we would end up at Geneva. we would get all of our Cumarda's and everyone together and we ended up at Geneva and we would all cook the night before. It was such a ritual to cook your egg plant and your chicken and all of that and get it all ready. Everybody got together. This was a togetherness.

M: Was there at any time when other families and different groups of people got together? For example, at Harrison Field?

D: No, not really.

M: How about any holiday functions like Christmas or parties?

D: Not really. Bert played Santa Claus out of our store when we had the grocery store. He played Santa Claus for about forty years or so.

M: Did he just play Santa and the kids would come?

D: No, I would sit down and make out a list and I would go from Joy Green's house, Tammy L' Abate, all of my Cumarda's. He has a gorgeous Santa Claus outfit but I won't let anybody see it because I don't want to loan it out. We paid a lot of money for that during the Depression.

I would start buying gifts and he would have little coloring books and stuff or maybe the parents would leave them outside the door, but Bert played Santa Claus for four hundred and twenty rooms at St. Elizabeth's Hospital for many years. We were in the Hollow when we started to do that. The "Gray Ladies" at St. Elizabeth's Hospital would furnish the oranges. And we had to be careful because the diabetes couldn't have candy.

I have a story about a family that when Santa Claus went into the room and we were coming down Belmont Avenue and we were living here on Uptown Avenue and by the time he got to the hospital he was soaking wet. By the time that he had played Santa Clause for four hundred and twenty patients he by the noon hour he would have to take the pillow and the ladies would dry it in the driers.

M: Sweat?

D: Sweat. Then we came home and two days later he said to me, "Ro, there is a lady that is bothering me because she isn't going home." She had told him, "Santa Claus I won't be going home." She had cancer and he listened to her. He asked her what her name was and then he talked quite awhile with her and two days later at home as I said I started to call the hospital trying to find out who this patient was. We found out that she was on the second floor next to a window and the telephone operators found out who the family was and they called me back and we had Santa Claus get a doll for the girl, she was four years old. We got a toy for the boy, who was I think eight years old. We got a tie for the husband and I don't remember what else we got...

M: This was for the family?

D: We bought for the family and Santa Claus brought it to this lady. We had everything wrapped for her. I got everything wrapped for her in all pretty bows and everything. She died in March and I can't tell you who she was but she was from Hubbard, but do you know that the family called us...

M: No kidding? Wow.

D: They wanted Santa Claus there. We went there and you could hear the buzzing this boy has to be a father now and they...

M: That has got to make you feel good?

D: We walked into that room and we could hear them saying, "Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus." They had passed the word around the family because they never knew who Santa Claus was without his beard. It was interesting. That was a fun this you know? We made somebody really happy that day.

M: You talk about some of the things that you did for recreation like Santa Claus and going up to Geneva, but was there a typical thing that you did every weekend? You have talked about the dances-was that typical?

D: It was typical if it was...See we didn't have football games and stuff like you have now. Now I can't say, "Boo" to Bert on Sunday because there are so many football games. But at that time picnics were our big thing.

M: That was just on weekends?

D: That was the weekend and Saturday afternoon we would get on the phone and call each girl, the head of each house, and Nancy Green's mother, me, Amy, Sylvia, Adele and all of these families and we would go up in maybe five or six cars. It was funny how we would stop the pilgrimage because some of the fathers had drank too much beer and had to go back to the barn somewhere and everyone of these cars would stop. It was comical.

M: That is great.

D: But we have good memories. But see there is nothing left like this.

M: No, that is interesting. Were there things that you did during the weekdays for recreation or was it just weekends? Was everyone working night shifts or what?

D: There weren't too many things that you did.

M: No?

D: No, because everything was...See, today it is different. Today you don't say, "Well, today I am going to make a big dinner for supper or I am going to make a three course meal." At that time we made supper and it was a day that you planned. I would say to one of the girls, "What are you cooking today?" Maybe all of us would make soup that day because we would pass the word around and that is the way it was. Everybody did what everybody else did. It was fun.

M: Staying on the topic of recreation, were sports played in a field? For example, you spoke of Harrison Field? Did you watch or did you pick up games for the guys?

D: Yes, they would pick up games at different clubs. I remember playing with the Arco Club, playing with the Harrison Golden Eagle Boys and they would have games.

M: I read about a Russo's Tavern that had softball games?

D: That was up on Glennwood Avenue.

M: Did a lot of people from the Hollow play on that?

D: Well, Steve Russon owned it and he was married to a girl from the Hollow.

M: Oh, I see.

D: That is how that was.

M: So, they all got together down the Hollow?

D: Yes.

M: Did they ever play at Harrison Field?

D: Yes.

M: Did you used to go and watch?

D: Oh, sure we went to watch. They were all of the boys that we liked.

M: Did your husband play?

D: No, he was from the East side.

M: Oh, he isn't from the Hollow?

D: No. He is from the Albert Street section.

M: Now you have two daughters that were born down the

Hollow and they grew up down there about fifteen years would you say? How about Carol Vecharelli?

D: We moved out of there when Nancy was fifteen years old. We built this house in 1956.

M: Do you think...They lived the majority of their lives out of the Hollow, but what kind of things do you think that they, what values did they pull from the Hollow?

D: They pulled the same values we did. They love their old friends. They love the old time cooking. They love family-style and family things. They really, really do.

M: Do you think...

D: It rubbed off.

M: Do you think that it rubbed off?

D: It rubbed off. They loved anything to do with relatives. They just don't have the time for it. If they did have the time for it they would force me to do more than I do.

M: If you would take one word values that they might have gained such as some of the things...

D: The values that they gained while living there include friendship and family life.

M: That is really important?

D: Oh, yes very important to both of my girls. They have instilled it an awful lot in their children.

M: That is good. Were there any other unaccepted people down there? This is getting back to some of the things that we talked about earlier?

D: Not really.

M: There was never any race?

D: There wasn't anybody that we were afraid of. There were what we called a "bum," who lived up in the field and the kids would run would "bear cat," the kids used to call him that. But he was harmless. But at that time the young girls would run oh, God. The poor guy didn't do anything wrong to anybody.

We had what they called a "Haunted House." There was a house that was moved from Wick Avenue down to the Hollow and it must of had about thirty rooms in it because there were about three different apartments

there. I remember standing for one of the girls in there and right now they own the Ice House on East High. Do you know where that is at?

M: No, I don't.

D: There is an Ice House up there-Ditullio was the name. Do you know the name?

M: Is he the guy that took care of the Ditullio memorial?

D: No, his name was...No there is no relation, but this was a haunted house and there were three different apartments. Well, the story that we got as we were growing up was that this house was moved from Wick Avenue down to Walnut Street at the bend of the hill. There was a bend at the hill which we called Maple Avenue. This house when we used to go by we used to run like heck because you were all afraid that the spirits would come out.

The story was that the woman of the house was a very wealthy woman up on Wick Avenue and I can't remember the name, but she was supposed to have pushed her maid out of the attic window.

M: Wow.

D: That was the story we got when we were growing up and the rooms were huge. I remember during the Depression that I stood for this girls Confirmation, and in fact the family has just called me now not long ago to tell me that this girl is in a wheel chair, and I remember when you confirmed anybody you had a big dinner you know and at that time it was pasta fagoli. And you sat around the table and everybody was happy and that is the way it was. No, stuffed turkey.

M: Just pasta fagoli? And you were happy.

D: Sure. In fact when I saw this Ditullio boy he said, "I don't know if you know it or not but your Cumarda is in a wheel chair." I had to think of who that was because I think I was just first married and I don't think that...It must have been about forty years ago.

M: You were talking a lot about Confirmation, did a lot of people Confirmation one another?

D: Within each others families. And you borrowed the dresses because everybody couldn't buy a new dress. Oh, yes you borrowed a dress. But that was it. Then you did have to get Confirmed. That was a necessity and any Hollow family Slovak, Italian, or whatever you were but you got Confirmed and you made your First Communion

even if you had to borrow all of the clothes.

M: So, you lived down there from that time until you moved?

D: I was born in 1916 and I moved out in 1956.

M: What era or decade do you think was most enjoyable living down there? There are the 1920's, 1930's, and 1940's, and the 1950's?

D: Oh, I think that it was the 1940's.

M: 1940's?

D: Yes. It was war time but everybody was with each other and if you got a letter from a boy in the service maybe everybody else would write a letter or a paragraph. It was always a fun thing because you always helped each other out.

M: So, the 1940's. Did a lot of people get together to help the war effort and collect rubber and steel?

D: I don't remember that too much, no. Because like I said that wasn't a woman's world.

M: Oh, okay.

D: I think that I was the only woman that drove. I remember Bert loaning me a Model T Ford and saying that I could drive it that day but if I got a flat tire that I would have to fix it and I got a flat tire that day. My father put cement blocks under those wheels in order to change that tire.

M: No kidding.

D: But I was the only one. My girls will tell you that I was the only one that ever drove.

M: Were you like the community taxi? Did you take a lot of people around?

D: Yes. It was a fun thing. I remember during the war when they had a strike down at the mill and my husband was on the police force there in the mill and oh, my gosh you had all of these union men and people...It was a Sunday morning and Carol and Nancy were sitting in the car and I drove down across the Center Street Bridge to throw a newspaper over and I threw pepperoni, salami, and stuff over. Well, I was followed home that day and I was petrified because I thought that they were going to bomb our house.

M: That was during the strike?

D: Yes.

M: During a little Steel strike?

D: Right.

M: What happened? Did you get involved in that?

D: All I did was go down and bring a newspaper and I flipped it over the bridge and Bert was a policeman and that was around...I remember Carol standing up in the car.

M: So, your husband was a policeman?

D: First he was a policeman and then he was a railroader. But he hated working for anybody. He hated the store and he hated all of that. He wanted to be his own boss.

M: Did the union have a strong influence in the people?

D: At that time.

M: The workers and the men? Was it really union oriented?

D: I don't know. We didn't talk about it. We were afraid.

M: Of the union?

D: Sure. I remember during the First World War I heard my parents talking and this has to be in 1922 or 1923 something like that. My uncle was living with us, he was my mother's brother, and we were one Walnut Street. They followed my uncle home. He was a socialist. He was with the...

M: This is right after World War I?

D: Yes. I remember my father...I remember that we were so afraid to go to bed at night. We thought that they would do something to us.

M: Wow. That is interesting.

D: Oh, yes.

M: Did he live down in the Hollow?

D: He lived with us.

M: Oh.

D: Everybody immigrated. Everybody lived with their rela-

tives because nobody had money.

M: And he was a socialist?

D: He would get paid...Now I forgot what he did but he had a straw hat. You know those round straw hats?

M: Yes.

D: Luckily, lucky straw hat and Uncle Phil would come down along the stone wall and if it was pay day all of the kids knew that they were going to get an ice cream cone because Uncle Phil took care of everybody. He was a very generous...This is my mother's brother. He was a Cataline. He went by Catlin and the people in Canada, all of the Cataline's changed their...Well, their original names is Cataoloni and Father Frank used to say, "Cataoline." And the ones in Canade, all of our relatives are Catlin. But they originated on Oak Street, which went into the Hollow.

M: Getting back to the unions, were the fathers or husbands ever worried about strikes and did you know about them?

D: We never knew too much about it. The kids were never included in that kind of a conversation at that time.

M: So, your father worked in the mill?

D: No, not my father. My father never worked in a mill.

M: Was there any fear at any time like of strikes because the majority of people worked in mills? When there was a strike was there talks about them?

D: We were always worried when my husband worked in the mill. We were worried about a strike. He stayed in the mill I think it was about six weeks and never came home.

M: Bert?

D: Yes.

M: For six weeks he stayed there and never left?

D: I think that is how long he stayed but I am not sure about that. I was quite awhile.

M: Holy Cow. Was there a strike on? Was there anything about Union Busters or Scabs?

D: Oh, sure. That is why Bert was there with a gun. He was afraid to use it though.

M: He used to have a gun when he went to work?

D: When he was a policeman in the mill and after the strike he would have to patrol the area and he would look in there and he would see all of his friends sleeping from the 3:00 to 11:00 shift. He would say, "I can't turn them in." So, he was called in on the carpet and he was told that he would never make a policeman because he couldn't turn anybody in. All of his friends..."Their kids kept them up all night how can I turn them in?" That is the way that he felt.

M: What mill did he work for?

D: Republic Steel.

M: Oh, Republic Steel. Was there a variation throughout the people who lived down in the Hollow to work at Republic or Sheet & Tube?

D: The biggest thing was if you worked in the Sheet & Tube you were high on the ladder then it came down to Republic Steel. But Sheet & Tube was a big thing at that time. But he started out down at John Todd's.

M: Did people tend to marry within the Hollow?

D: Yes.

M: Why do you think that that was?

D: The girls and the boys all ended up together.

M: It was all like a big friendship and the next thing you know they were married?

D: Yes, right.

M: Mashada's?

D: Right. And they met at Harrison Field. Oh, Harrison Field had a little pavilion and you found them making love in that pavilion. That is where they were.

M: You didn't marry within the Hollow?

D: No.

M: No.

D: I could have because I knew him all of my life but it was funny, you knew that we were related.

M: Did you have a lot of boyfriends from down there?

D: My mother didn't talk to us for six months because she said, "You had to marry your cousin and you had all of those boyfriends." And it is funny because they all went to East High and they all played center on the East High football team. Two of them played center on the Rayen team. We used to have a ball.

M: Oh, yeah?

D: I went to every football game, especially if it was a Rayen and East game. Oh, I had a good time.

M: Now you married your cousin, first cousin?

D: Yes. His mother and my father were brother and sister.

M: Wow.

D: And my mother didn't talk to us. My mother was raised in a Catholic orphanage down in Pittsburgh and she thought that I was going to go to hell and she doesn't realize that when she was dying all she did was call for Bert. He was wonderful to her. We had her bed in the parlor and Bert was great with her.

M: You have talked about some of the well known people in Youngstown that lived down there, did you know them well? You had mentioned Dom Rosselli?

D: DeBartolo.

M: Really? Edward DeBartolo Sr.?

D: Senior.

M: Did you know him?

D: Sure we did. He was from the Hollow. Dom and Heck Rosselli. Of course the Ferrari's, they have the Macali's Funeral Home now.

M: Did you know Pat Ungaro?

D: Sure. Pat grew up in my parlor. He was a bashful boy. We used to fix his dates for him. Louis San Angelo, who became a Fireman or chief. Dom Conti, Carl Nunziato.

M: Those names that you are mentioning I recognize their names from research. You used to elect a mayor from the Hollow?

D: Bert was the first one that spoke there at the monu-

ment. He was the first mayor and gave the first speech at the monument at the top of the hill.

M: So, they used to elect a mayor each year or an honorary man?

D: Every year. Well, Fred Santos is the president of the Golden Eagle, the way it is now.

M: What is the Golden Eagles?

D: The Golden Eagles are a group of boys that grew up in Smoky Hollow and played baseball together mostly.

M: It was just a club or gang?

D: It is a club and it started out hanging out around the MVR. Across the street in front of Harrison Field there is a building in the back and it was a duplex, a house and that is where they would have their club meetings. I am trying to think of some other important boys that grew up down there. But we had nice boys that grew up there. In fact Mr. Paul had that big bakery. He grew up in Oak Park. He is from the Hollow, originally.

M: Why do you think the Hollow lost its uniqueness? Is it the same?

D: Well, more or less people wanted their children go to better schools, like Ursuline and we as a family when I suggested Ursuline to my girls they said that they didn't want it. Then when they wanted it I couldn't afford it. That is what happened there. But that is the way it was with school.

Of course at the time growing up we had a wonderful relationship with our children. They were involved in everything at school. Carol was involved in the Y-Teens, she was "City Y Queen." That was exciting. We all went to that and of course Carol didn't know that she was going to be queen that night but we all knew it. You saw the pictures.

M: I probably have.

D: Nancy was sobbing her head off. We had a good time. Nancy was the head majorette at the time that she was in high school. In fact I came across the coach, Robi-nette, he was the coach at Rayen school and I remember him saying to...I used to go up there and sit with my little black and white chowowa and I would go up at 4:00p.m. and watch the boys practice out. At that time Carol was going with Ben Realli. Do you know that name?

M: Yes.

D: Well, he was Bill Realli's nephew and she was going with Ben and Robinette, the football coach at Rayen school said, "Does that lady have anybody that is one this team?" They said, "No, her daughter dates the boys." I used to go up and watch them. I would yell and be all by myself.

So, I saw Robinette two weeks ago at the dinner for Jim Vecharelli, and I said, "Hello, Mr. Robinette. Do you remember me?" He said, "I sure do. You sat next to the tunnel and when the boys came through you yelled at all of them." I did yell, "Chin strap, chin strap." They were all slobbered on. But the little kids loved them. So, every time I got a chin strap for somebody they were so happy. The football players would give me there old and dirty chin straps and I would take them.

And we never missed a game. If we had to go and make a tunnel and it was snowing we were soaked but we made attempts. At the end of the tunnel there was a rail.

M: This is at Rayen?

D: At Rayen. We went to every football game and I didn't have anybody playing, but I was there.

M: This is when your daughters were in school?

D: Yes.

M: Were you living there when I-680 came through or when they built the freeway?

D: In the Hollow?

M: Yes.

D: No. That was a prayer that our parents had hoping that they would take our property and go up Walnut Street and across Scott Street up to where the funeral parlor is.

M: Okay.

D: That is what they thought was going to happen, but they never took it. But the parents in the Hollow thought that their property in the Hollow was valuable.

M: And your property wasn't taken?

D: Mine is still there. That house that I was born in was sold for \$1800.

M: When did your parents pass away? Were they living down

there?

D: No. My mother lived here when she died in 1963. My father died in 1956 and we moved into this house in November of 1956 and he died in June of 1956.

M: Down in the Hollow?

D: Yes, he died in the Hollow because we moved in November and we had the first Thanksgiving here.

M: Did you sell the property? Did you sell the house?

D: Yes, we sold the house for \$200 and the man is still in it.

M: Wow. That was in 1956?

D: Yes.

M: Why did you leave the Hollow?

D: The kids wanted to continue to go to Rayen and everybody was moving out. It was a natural thing to do.

M: Why do you think that they were moving out?

D: To better themselves.

M: When they moved out did the property...How were the feelings? Was it a slow process?

D: There was no thought. The only thought was, "am I going to have enough money to buy carpeting and drapes?" At that time you charged and had a big charge bill or you didn't get them. We didn't have money for all of these things.

M: When the people moved out did they move...Did anybody ever move really far and out of the way or out of the area or did a lot of people move to the suburbs?

D: Most of ours our segregated in this nucleus.

M: The North side?

D: Yes.

M: What was the farthest that anybody moved? Do you remember? Did anybody move out to like California?

D: No, well my nephew is in California and he was born on Walnut Street. And another nephew was born on Walnut Street and is in Cincinnati. Antoinette Nunziato's boys are in California; the one we Baptized and Confirmed is

a lawyer in California and was born on Walnut Street. Most of us stayed in the Rayen School District.

M: To keep your kids going to the same school?

D: Right.

M: Okay, I see. That is interesting that you stayed for the school reasons.

D: We stayed for the school at that time.

M: Do you keep in touch with a lot of your friends?

D: I try.

M: The ones from the Hollow?

D: I try and we have a Hollow reunion and I love it. I had to be the only there I would love it.

M: Is there a reunion?

D: We have a reunion the second, or three Wednesday of July. The women's group has a luncheon. This last year we had it at the Wick Pollock Inn because we felt that that was the boundary of Smoky Hollow.

M: What did you consider the boundaries of the Smokey Hollow? Wick Oval? How about all sides?

D: Well, really and truly it started with Wick Avenue, Scott Street, Andrews Avenue, and Rayen Avenue.

M: All right encompassed in that area?

D: Yes, right.

M: Where the Juvenile Justice Center is that considered part of the Smoky Hollow?

D: That is where the Belacastor, Orsini, that is where part of their property in the back there. That belonged to her grandparents, part of that property in the back. I don't know if they owned that or not but that was their field in the back yard.

We used to cut across there to go to Madison School. When you went to Madison school Andrews Avenue had street cars tracks. Do you know where Andrews Avenue is?

M: Yes.

D: Alright, where Modern Builders are.

M: I don't think that I know where that is at.

D: Do you know where the bend in the road is and the Juvenile Justice Center is up the hill to Maple Avenue and Scott Street?

M: Yes, okay, I know where that is.

D: That was the street car track and it went from Youngstown to Stop 18 in Sharon line.

M: Sharon, Pennsylvania?

D: We called it the Sharon line and it was out here.

M: Oh.

D: Yes. Then I think that the Ohio Edison took part of that land over and before you knew it you had your telephone and electric poles in there, because Oak Park went up over the ledge there.

M: What is that wall there built for? Was there a purpose? it is the one by the MVR that goes down ...

D: Oh, that one. The cement wall. We used to say, "if you pass the wall you will find the Palamara's house." Because our's was the second house over.

M: But what is the reason for that wall?

D: I don't remember. That was there before I grew up. We were always afraid that it was going to fall down.

M: Yes, it is leaning now.

D: But it has leaned like that all of its life.

M: Oh, really?

D: And when I say all of its life all I can remember is my uncle coming home along that wall.

M: Did he think that it was going to come down?

D: Yes.

M: It is like the Leaning Tower of Pisa in the Smoky Hollow.

D: Right, right.

M: When you get together with your friends...

D: We reminisce.

M: Do you talk about the old times?

D: Oh, sure. We would say, "Did you see so and so? Boy did she get old." But most of our generation, and I will say this with pride, but over seventy years old you wouldn't know it. I don't know whether it is the different life everybody leads but when I think of my grandmother who died at about sixty-nine she sat in the corner with her rocker. She wouldn't have ever in the world have worn shorts or wore slacks. When she died we made sure that there was a blanket around her. Well, don't put a blanket around me because I want to look like I was healthy. But this is the difference. My grandmother, I can see her rocking in the rocker and I am sure she was about sixty-nine, and she didn't live here she lived in Akron, but she thought that I was wild and all I ever did was walk down the street and mailed a letter at 6:00 p.m. and she thought that that was being wild. That was the difference in generations.

M: So, when you guys do get together you do reminisce then?

D: Oh, sure. We often talk and especially, when Labor Day came by we said, "Do you remember what we did years ago? We used to come to your house and do tomatoes." That was a ritual. Then my father would get the grapes out and by that time the grapes were ripe.

M: Making wine?

D: Oh, you had to send it to all of the Cumarda's. You had to send some grapes.

M: Oh.

D: All of your crops.

M: Did everybody have gardens?

D: Yes.

M: Was that a typical...So everybody had gardens. Did everybody grow the same things usually?

D: Yes. A lot tomatoes, squash, zucchini. But zucchini became more popular as the time went. Today it is almost a gourmet dish.

M: Why do they call it Smokey Hollow?

D: Because the mills were around it and you got all of the smoke from the mills.

M: There is another question that somebody had asked me to ask everybody and it is, how do they spell it? Is it S-m-o-k-e-y or S-m-o-k-y Hollow?

D: S-m-o-k-e-y Hollow.

M: Somebody from the Vindicator said that there was a big dispute on how you spell Smokey Hollow.

D: S-m-o-k-e-y H-o-l-l-o-w and it was because we were down in the Hollow.

M: Was there a lot of crime?

D: No.

M: Well, if there was did everybody know about it? Can you remember any instances when there was any crime?

D: Not really. There was nothing at all to be afraid of.

M: How about during the Depression?

D: No. If you made \$.1 on a newspaper...My father during the Depression had no job and we were on welfare and he would carry two bushel baskets and he wrapped then newspaper around the handles and he would slide it through. His arms became paralyzed and we would slid these baskets in. He would take at least four boxes of candy with twenty-four bars in them and he would sell them to the machine shops. Wick Avenue was full of machine shops and he would sell his candy and make a \$.1 on a bar.

M: That was your father?

D: That was my father and that is what he did in the Hollow. People knew him. He had a wheelbarrow and it was nothing for my father to wait and pray that the milkman would come along with his horse and the horse had diarrhea all the way down the street and my father would follow that horse with a shovel and put that in the garden.

M: Oh, really?

D: That was fertilizer.

M: Wow.

D: That was the fertilizer and that is the way that we lived. That was living.

M: What are some of your most memorable experiences?

Things that you can remember the most and are the most pleasant experiences from there?

D: It was an experience. I am going to tell you a sad one.

M: Well, I will get that one later.

D: Oh, okay. This is an insurance man. This is how poor people were then. We lived with my parents for five years and the insurance man came in and my mother told him that she didn't have money to pay her premium that month. He said to her, "Well, can't you go across the street and ask the storekeeper?" It was a Jewish man who owned the store. I was peeling potatoes in the kitchen and I came out with a knife in my hand and I said, "What did she tell you? Did she tell you that she couldn't afford it? Then that is all you hear and she isn't going to ask anybody else for the money."

M: Wow.

D: But that is the way things were. It might have been \$1.38 for the premium but that is how poor the people where.

M: They used to come door-to-door to collect for bills?

D: Right, but the most pleasant, I will say when Bert played Santa Claus. We loved it. We always had fun.

M: That is great.

D: And Santa Claus was great. I am sure to this day that there are...I had a girl come to me and it wasn't too long ago and said, "Don't you remember me? You were Santa Claus when I was a little girl." Those are fond memories. So, we did in our lifetime we both liked the same things. So in our lifetime we had fun. Everybody can't say that. Everybody can't say, "Oh, this is agreeable or that was agreeable." I had friends that people didn't even know that they were married because their husbands didn't like what they did. And they spent time sleeping on a chair instead of having fun. Even if it didn't cost you money we had fun. If we even went to Joe Mancini's baseball game we had fun. We loved it.

M: If you could change anything about living down there...

D: In the Hollow?

M: Yes.

D: I don't think that I could have changed anything so much as I wish I could have done more for my mother and

father.

M: What kind of life could it have been? Were there some changes that you could have made to make it a little better? Can you think of anything?

D: I can't say that we could have made it better because everybody was poor and we didn't know any better. But we were lucky when we had gas in the car. That is the way that it was. I think that it is going to be like that again.

M: We hope not. What are some of your least memorable? Things that you really don't try to remember about the Smokey Hollow?

D: Like I say the least things that I don't want to remember is that I couldn't do for my mother. I always wanted to do for my mother and she almost forced me to do things. I was the oldest and my sister sat in the background and would say, "Let Rose do it." And that is the way that I became what I am. "Rose will do it."

M: A lot of responsibility?

D: They pushed it on me and they pushed it on my husband.

M: Oh really?

D: He was great. He moved into our house and I had four sisters and this is poor because we had no bathroom and I bought a folding screen at the Salvation Army for I think \$1.25 and I had painted it a shade of green that we had in our kitchen and I had green curtains that I put on and it folded in three parts and we put it around the sink and that is how we got a bathroom. That was the Saturday bath.

M: Was that once a week?

D: Well, I can't say that today. I remember...Oh, pappa don't turn over in your grave. I can remember my mother would put newspaper on the floor and my mother would bring up a wash tub in the kitchen and fill it with hot water and my father took his bath and we all had to stay in the other room. That is the way that it was.

M: That is not too pleasant of a...

D: But that is...My friends all had bathrooms. They had a nice toilet. We went down the cellar and we had a toilet in the cellar because we didn't have anything.

M: Wow.