YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Smokey Hollow

Personal Experience

O.H. 1384

CARMELLA GAETANO

Interviewed

bу

Joseph E. Mancini

on

December 3, 1990

CARMELLA (DONOFRIO) GAETANO

Carmella Gaetano was born on July 16, 1917 in Smokey Hollow at 525 Andrew's Avenue. Her family moved to Audubon Street in the Hollow and she lived there until she was married at the age of thirty-six. She attended Madison, Hayes, and East High respectively. Her father (Joseph) worked most of his life at Truscon Steel. He passed away at a young age. Her mother (Michaelina) worked raising five children and taking care of up to nine boarders at a time.

Carmella worked several jobs before she was married in 1953. She started at Al's Lunch on the corner of Market Street and Pyatt Street in Youngstown. She then worked at Truscon Steel and then moved on to work for Gray Drug (Weinberg's) in the Uptown from 1933-1953. Carmella married Arthur Gaetano in 1953 and they moved into his house at 239 Court Street where they currently live today. They had four children who were all raised in the Hollow and have been quite successful.

The Gaetano's have refused to move out of the Hollow because this is where they were born and raised and enjoy living their. Mrs. Gatano belongs to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and enjoys to bake (believe me) and read.

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Smokey Hollow

INTERVIEWEE: CARMELLA GAETANO

INTERVIEWER: Joseph Mancini

SUBJECT: Life in the Hollow, Depression, Protestant

and Catholic Churches, and work.

DATE: December 3, 1990

M: This is an interview with Carmel Gaetano for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the Smokey Hollow, by Joseph Mancini, at 239 Court Street, on December 3, 1990, at 1:00 p.m.

Can you start out by telling me where you were born and the date?

- G: I was born in Youngstown, Smokey Hollow on July 16, 1917.
- M: What was your address?
- G: I was born on 525 Andrews Avenue.
- M: How long did you live at that house?
- G: Well, my mother had moved there from West Virginia and I think that I lived there about a year and then we moved to Audubon Street, which is a block above.
- M: How long did you live at that house?
- G: I lived there until I got married. I lived there until I was thirty-six years old, but my mother lived there. Do you want to know why she lived there?
- M: Yes, that is fine.

- G: Well, she lived there until she passed away June 1977. She lived there all of the time that she was in Youngstown.
- M: How long was that?
- G: From 1916 until she died in the Smokey Hollow.
- M: When did you move into this house?
- G: When I got married.
- M: Which was in 1953?
- G: Yes, 1953.
- M: What schools did you attend when you lived there?
- G: I went to Madison. Well, first of all I went to what they call preschool today, but it was kindergarten then and it was on Valley Street. There was a one room kindergarten and I went there until I went to Madison through grade school, then I went to Hayes and then I went to East High School up until the tenth grade.
- M: Where were you living when you went to East?
- G: I was living on Audubon Street.
- M: I know a lot of people went to Rayen.
- G: Yes, a certain side of the street. Well, the reason that I went to East High School, and I shouldn't say this because my brother is dead, but anyhow he lied about our address because he didn't want to go to Rayen High School. So, he gave our address as the other side of the boundary, whatever it was I don't remember. So, I started at Rayen and they wondered why my brother was going to East and I was going to Rayen. So, I was forced to go to East High School too because I didn't want to tell on him.
- M: You mentioned a brother, how many people were in your family?
- G: I had three brothers and a sister.
- M: Are you the youngest or the oldest?
- G: No, my oldest sibling was a sister and my four brothers were younger.
- M: Did they all go to East High School?

- G: Yes, but none of them graduated. It was during the Depression. One joined the CV's. Another one went to the CCC Camp, and another one was in the Navy.
- M: Did you used to walk to school all of the time?
- G: Oh, yes.
- M: What was it like walking?
- G: Oh, it was fine. When I went to Hayes my mother used to give me money for bus tickets but I would use the money for candy because I would rather have the candy than ride the bus. We used to walk and it wasn't that bad. It was about thirty minutes.
- M: What was your father's occupation?
- G: My father worked at Truscon Steel when he first came to Youngstown and he worked there for years. Then he had an accident at work and his hand became paralyzed. Well, due to the accident he couldn't work anymore so they wouldn't compensate him in those days like it is now. They didn't have unions and stuff. So, he got an attorney and he was going to sue them for some compensation. Well, when the company found out that they were going to be sued they fired him. So, this was during the Depression and my dad couldn't find anything. My dad sold newspapers in front of the Mahoning Bank downtown because they wouldn't go on relief because they were very proud. They also had boarders. They made and sold wine.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: Sure. We sold wine for a living.
- M: Was your father born in Italy?
- G: My father was born in Italy.
- M: So, he came across?
- G: Yes. Then he sold papers until he died. After my father died my mother still had the boarders and sold the wine. Then us kids went to work.
- M: Did you work?
- G: Oh, yes.
- M: Where did you work during the Depression?
- G: Well, during the Depression my very first job I used to work for a restaurant on Market Street. It was called

- Al's Lunch on Market and Pyatt Street where the farmers market it. It was a relative of my brother-in-law and they used to give me \$1.00 a day.
- M: Wow.
- G: I loved it because I got to eat such good food. Then from there I got a job in the Truscon Steel in the grill, working in the grill. I had to work three turns.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: Yes. I walked from Audubon Street to Albert Street. It was 11:30 p.m. or 6:00 a.m. when I used to come home. No one bothered us when we walked. We didn't used money on street cars. Then after I worked there for a couple of years I worked there two years and I quite because a friend of mine got me a job at Lerner's Dress Shop, but I don't think that I worked there seven or eight months because I didn't care for it too much. So, while I was working at Lerner's I would go to the Brass Rail for lunch and I met this fellow that was a druggist for Gray Drug, which was Weinberg's at the time, and he offered me a job with them. Then that was the last job that I had until I got married.
- M: Did your mother work or did she just raise the kids?
- G: My mother never worked. My mother at one time had five children and nine boarders in a three bedroom house.
- M: How did she manage that?
- G: Five children, mother and father all slept in one bedroom.
- M: Oh, my God.
- G: In the living room and the boarders had a single cot in each room.
- M: I heard that when people took in boarders down here the borders would live in the same room but they would work different shifts so one was home and one was working.
- G: Oh, yes they all worked different shifts and my mother had to cook different meals for each one of them.
- M: Oh, my God.
- G: You darn right. God Bless her. When I think of what she went through it was something. But we never went on welfare and there was welfare offered and mother wouldn't do it. She would not do it. So, anyhow we survived and they made and sold wine, which wasn't

- illegal in those days. We all got along.
- M: Did you have a garden?
- G: Oh, gosh yes. We didn't have that much garden space where we lived but there was a lot of space...It used to be Crab Creek, beyond Andrews Avenue and there was a lot of land there and if you went and put a garden it was yours and nobody cared. So, my mother went down there and planted a garden every year.
- M: Did your father grow the grapes right here too?
- G: My father bought the grapes because homemade grapes don't make good wine. Youngstown grapes. They have to be tended too. Special grapes. When we used to make wine we used to have to carry in about five hundred wooden boxes of grapes. They would go down to where the railroad trains would come in get the grapes and take them home and make the wine.
- M: Did you have a coal furnace back then?
- G: Yes, we had a coal furnace.
- M: What was that like?
- G: Terrible. I hated it. I used to get up in the morning and the first thing that I had to do before I went to school was sweep the soot off of the porch. I mean soot. It was filthy. Everybody had layers of soot. We had a coal furnace at first and then after everybody got a gas furnace a nephew of my mother's gave her money to buy, that was Virgil, a gas furnace. Then she had a gas furnace.
- M: What do you consider to be the boundaries of Smokey Hollow? I have heard different...
- G: They say from Rayen Avenue but some people include Summit Avenue. I really don't know too much about that. All the way up to what used to be Maple Avenue and Scott Street, but now they took that street away. I don't think that they use it. That may be where the free way is.
- M: I think that is where the on ramp goes on to the free way.
- G: Yes, it goes on to Oak Street. Then down Andrews Avenue and Watt Street. I don't know if that would be included.
- M: Would that be where Mount Carmel Church is?

- G: Yes.
- M: I heard that there was a lot of business up there in that area.
- G: Oh, yes. There were a lot of grocery stores and businesses. There were a lot of businesses on Walnut Street.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: Yes. There were probably four grocery stores on Walnut Street. A Jewish family had one. Tuccis' had one. Ciarnellos' had one. L'Abates' had one up on the corner. Lariccias' had one down here.
- M: Which one did your family basically shop at?
- G: Oh, we shopped at Ciarnellos' because he was a piason. You went to your own. You know what a piason is don't you?
- M: Yes, they came from the same area.
- G: Yes, and being Italian was nothing. Being a piason was everything. Piasons' stuck together.
- M: Did you ever shop at any other ones other than Ciarnel-lo's?
- G: I don't think that we did. No. Then we had the Conti's that were near us too on the corner from us. My mother used to shop there.
- M: Is that where the Tip Top is now?
- G: Right across the street. Actually we didn't do a lot of shopping because my mother raised all of her vegetables. The only things that she would buy would be oil or things that she couldn't raise. But she raised, canned, and stored. We didn't eat that much meat. We only ate meat once a week on Sunday with spaghetti sauce. But it was always pasta. Pasta fagoli, Pasta cicci, etc.
- M: Did a lot of stores give a lot of credit? Do you remember?
- G: Yes. In fact when my mother...During the Depression when the boarders started to leave my mother opened a little store in her living room and she had it there for about three or four years. She carried meat or fruit, just dry goods. They gave credit but we never charged. If we couldn't pay for it we didn't get it.

- M: Do you remember anyone leaving the Hollow to go shop? To get speciality items?
- G: I never remember leaving the Hollow to shop for food.
- M: That is interesting. I have talked to a lot of people about the Smokey Hollow and when somebody says, "I'm from the Smokey Hollow." Why is that so unique? What makes Smokey Hollow such a unique place?
- G: I don't know what makes it so unique but I know that I love it. I have a friend who lives in Boardman and "Oh, why don't you get out of the Hollow." I always tell him, "I was born in Smokey Hollow, and I am going to die in the Smokey Hollow, and I want my ashes cremated in Smokey Hollow." I love Smokey Hollow. There is nothing left now. The University has taken over everything but it used to be such warm and loving neighborhood.

Things are different now and people have changed but it was safe and you could go anywhere to borrow anything. When my dad passed away, the minute people found out we had about twenty neighbors come over the house with food, some stayed with the children, someone cleaned the house, and we did that for one another. My mother delivered about ten babies down in the Smokey Hollow.

- M: No kidding?
- G: Sure. They didn't call doctors they used to have midwives. And a lot of them couldn't afford that so they would call my mother.
- M: Wow. So, it was the closeness and the tightness.
- G: Yes.
- M: I once heard that you didn't have to lock your doors.
- G: No, never. My mother never locked her doors. When I was a teenager and I started going out dancing I would go to Idora Park and dance all night and all afternoon and then come home and I would get a licking. Then I would go back. I didn't care. But anyhow she always had the door open. She would ask me what time I would come in and I would lie. I would say, "Oh, around 9:00 p.m." But I probably was after midnight.
- M: It probably seemed like with the boarders you probably couldn't even lock the doors since they were coming in all of the time too?
- G: Yes. We never had doors locked.

- M: Where did most of the people work at when they lived down in the Smokey Hollow? Were there certain places?
- G: Mostly they worked at the Truscon and then there was the Republic Steel and there was General Fireproofing. There was another one too but I can't remember the name of it.
- M: Republic Iron & Steel Company?
- G: Yes, that was down on Albert Street. A lot of them worked for the city too.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: Yes. My father first came to Youngstown and he couldn't find a job so he worked for the city. He used work in the sewer. He would go into the sewer and never see daylight. He would go down and it was dark and he would come up and it was dark.
- M: Wow.
- G: They made the streets. I don't know if you have noticed this but there are a few streets that have brick.
- M: Was that during the Depression?
- G: Yes, during the Depression.
- M: Do you think that it was especially tough on residents of Smokey Hollow during the Depression because there was...
- G: No. Do you mean because of the ethnic?
- M: No, because everybody was the working class. Do you think that it was especially hard because people lost their jobs?
- G: No. I think the reason that Smokey Hollow had so many Italians' and so many other ethnic groups was because people used to send for them. Like when my mother came to America then she sent for her cousin. That is what they used to do. In fact they used to fix marriages that way.
- M: Mushade's.
- G: That is another thing that my mother used to do. She used to make a lot of mushades. She was a corker. Then they would find a home for them near them.
- M: Right.

- G: It was quite a close neighborhood.
- M: I was wondering too if when somebody got a job, for instance at GF, did they tend to help other people in the family get a job at GF?
- G: Oh, yes. That is what you did. You asked.
- M: You mentioned the ethnic diversity and backgrounds whether they were Italians', Slovaks' or Jewish. Do you remember any conflicts? People got along so well.
- G: No. We got along great. When you were kids, as you know kids tend to be cruel, there were a couple of German or Slovak kids that used to call you a WOP or a Dago, but that was no big thing. I didn't know that that was supposed to be an insult to tell you the truth.
- M: But that is something that was so unique about this place.
- G: Well, the kids used to call me Wop, the German and Irish, because when I was born my mother had ears pierced and earring put in my ear. That wasn't for beauty like they do now. They were brought up to believe that it improved your eyesight.
- M: No kidding?
- G: And the same was true if a girl was born and they pricked her ears and they would put these little gold loops. The kids used to say, "Oh, look at that little WOP with the earrings on." So, I didn't want to wear these things and I would come home and cry, "Mom, I don't want to wear these." And she would say, "You have to wear them." You didn't go against customs. But I took one earring one day and I threw it in Crab Creek and I came home and I said "Mom, I lost my earring. I can't wear just one."
- M: You acted like you knew what you were doing. I heard that WOP means without a passport.
- G: Oh, really?
- M: Yes. And when you came across the country it meant without passport. Then it turned into a derogitory term. That is what I heard but I really don't know.
- G: I never heard that.
- M: In what do you think when you were growing up, like the closeness, do you think that it helped you become a lot more tolerable?

- G: Oh, definitely. The way I was brought up I am positively and absolutely. It made me very obvious of peoples feelings and things like that. It was close. Especially, Emerald Street and Audubon, which ran into Emerald. You could run in and out of their houses for a favor or anything and nobody said no. It was just a real close neighborhood and we grew up that way. All of those people were very giving. They didn't have money but they were very giving. As I said, when somebody passed away someone made food, my mother delivered babies, somebody was sick you went to sit with them. They helped each other out.
- M: How about your children, do you try to instill those values in them?
- G: I tried. I think that I did a good job. My kids all went through school and they all got through YSU all on their own. They all paid for their own education.
- M: What was it like during World War II down in the Smokey Hollow?
- G: It was pretty rough because we had a lot of young men that...We had a couple of close friends that were killed in action.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: Yes. Well, Vito Donofrio's cousin was one of them. Paul Lazazzera. Santore was killed.
- M: I think that that was Catherine Masterdine.
- G: Then there was a Marnelli who was killed too. In fact they have a stone up there.
- M: Do you attend the memorial when they have a service?
- G: No, I don't.
- M: No.
- G: I don't even go to the cemetery. I hate that. Do me good while I am living leave me alone when I am dead. That is the way that I believe. Now my husband is entirely different. He could live in the cemetery. In fact when the kids were small they used to go for a ride on Sunday to the cemetery to look at everybody's stones.
- M: During the war were there special things that were going on down in the Smokey Hollow to help raise money or the kids?

- G: There was nothing different because they always helped each other during, before, or after the war. They were all lower than average incomes. There were maybe five six families that were maybe a little comfortable than others but we were always helping and giving. Unless they lost a son and then of course... Now when my father died...My father used to love to play cards drink his wine and one night he was out with the Cumbard's all night, he was with Vito Donofrio's uncle, and my mother got up early in the morning, went down there, got real mad at him, and came home, and she was in the kitchen getting breakfast ready and he must have felt something coming because he was coming up the street and Dom Conti, his father had the store there on the corner, and he was sweeping the snow and he said, Giuseppe." And my dad didn't answer him. So, he came in and opened the side door and my mother said something about, "Oh, it is about time." And he opened the door, he grunted, and he fell down the steps. had a stroke coming on. He fell down the steps and he broke his collar bone and fractured his skull.
- M: Wow.
- G: And that is how he died. Anyhow, how people helped each other, when my father died there was no insurance and \$.85 in his pocket. That is all that he had.
- M: When was this?
- G: Oh, I was about fifteen years old when he died.
- M: Wow.
- G: But anyhow all of the piasons' and all of the neighborhood made a collection and they brought my mother about \$600.
- M: Holy cow.
- G: And what a help that was.
- M: I can imagine.
- G: Then my mother did for others too. They all helped each other. You just didn't go to welfare. You went to your neighbors and your friends and they all helped.
- M: Can you compare any other areas in Youngstown that are similar to the Smokey Hollow?
- G: I think Briar Hill. And then the East Side too where there were a lot of ethnic people.
- M: Did you know a lot of people from Brier Hill?

- G: Well, when I went to Hayes School I went to school with some kids from Briar Hill.
- M: Did they have similar attitudes about life?
- G: Yes, similar attitudes. We used to skip school together, and go to dances together.
- M: When you were living here say back in the 1940's and 1950's, do you think that people looked at the Smokey Hollow a little differently that didn't live here?
- G: I don't think that they did. They do now. In fact I get so erked when I go places and people say, "Are you still living in the Smokey Hollow? Aren't you afraid to live there?" No, I am not afraid to live there. They think that it is crime ridden, but nothing happens in the Smokey Hollow. They have more crime up in Boardman.
- M: Yes, they do and that is where I live. I heard that the University is helping out a lot with security.
- G: Yes, they are around all of the time now.
- M: What role do you think that the church played?
- G: Well, you see my situation was very different because my mother was born a Catholic and I have to tell this story again about how she became a Protestant. During World War I my mother had two brothers. One was in the war and he was a prisoner of the Germans.
- M: Wow.
- G: Then one came to America and he was a real strict Catholic. He went to Chicago. He came here to earn his fortune because they were poor. There was nothing there and he had a chance to come to America and that was a big thing.
- M: Right.
- G: So, anyhow he came to America and went to Chicago. Well, he got in with the wrong people and he became an alcoholic at the age of thirteen and he was a street person. He would lay down in the street.
- M: This would be your uncle right?
- G: Yes, this is my uncle. My mother's brother. There was a John Carroll School at the Presbyterian School in Chicago and the students and the ministers used to feed the homeless and they saw John Carroll himself saw, this young man and he felt sorry for him and he would-

n't speak English and he couldn't tell him what was wrong and John Carroll could see that he was starving, was sick, and drunk. So, he took him in and he saw to it that he had a home and he got him to go to school. And to learn English language. Then after he got through school my uncle was just so grateful for what he did for him that this John Carroll asked him if he wanted to become a Presbyterian minister and he would help him through school. So, he did. He became a Presbyterian minister.

- M: No kidding.
- G: Well, this was in Chicago then when he was ordained he was a minister and they gave him a church in Clarksburg, West Virginia. Well, when my father first came to America he went to Clarksburg, West Virginia because my uncle sent for him and told him that he could work in the coal mines. So, my father went and he was in Clarksburg, West Virginia one year before my mother came. And the only reason that my mother came to America...She didn't want to come to America, she wanted to stay in Italy.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: And she came to America because she had a son who burned to death. My father's mother was supposed to be sitting with the child and they lived in one room with a fireplace, well the baby was sleeping and she went out to gab with her neighbors and closed the door. They dressed all of the little boys and girls all alike and he had a little dress. The dress caught on fire, came to the door, the door was closed and he couldn't get out. When his grandmother came and opened the door she stepped on him because she thought that he was a cat.
- M: Oh, my God.
- G: And here it was my mother's son that was burned to death.
- M: Wow.
- M: So, she couldn't bear to stay in Italy anymore so she came to America and she lived in West Virginia. While in West Virginia my uncle, who lived two blocks away from the church, she and my uncle would walk together on Sunday, his Protestant church was on this corner, and her Catholic church was across the street. She would go to the Catholic and he would go to the Protestant. "Michaelina, why don't you come to church with me." She would say, "No, no, no. What kind of a God do you have? He doesn't answer your prayers. Our brother is a prisoner in Germany and they won't let him go."

And my uncle said, "How about your Catholic prayers?" She said, "I don't care." He said, "Well, try." So, anyhow this argument kept one going and one Sunday she said, "If through your prayers our brother is released I will promise to come to your church." So, he was released and she did. And the first Sunday she went she decided to become a Protestant.

- M: Holy cow.
- G: She was so impressed. Then she came to Youngstown because my father moved here and got a better job. Here brother the minister was supposed to come to Youngstown to baptize me when I was born and he couldn't come right away and I was a couple months old. I got sick and I got pneumonia and I was going to die. The doctor told my mother that I didn't have a chance. Well, she didn't want me to die without being baptized so my father walked up to Mount Carmel, Father Franco and he told him the true story that we were Protestant and that my mother was afraid that I was going to die and she wanted her baby baptized and he walked down and he baptized me.
- M: Holy cow.
- G: Yes, I was baptized Catholic but then I went to a Protestant church. And I was a Protestant for thirty-five years. And I used to go to the Italian-Protestant Church on Full Street, where the mission is. And then when I grew up and was older I went to the First Presbyterian Church and Methodist Church because I worked and it was convenient for me. I worked on Sunday and drug stores were opened on Sunday. So, I was a Protestant for thirty-five years...
- M: This is interesting.
- G: I tell this all of the time. When I met my husband he was a strong Catholic and I was a Protestant. Well, when we decided that we were going to be married he said, "Well, you keep your religion, you don't have to change." I had offered to. He said, "You stay a Protestant and I will stay a Catholic." And I thought about it and I said, "Well, you know I want children and I don't want them to go to different churches." So, I said, "No, I will change." I didn't know how my mother was going to take it. When I told her I said, "Mom, we are going to get married and I am going to get married at Mount Carmel Church. I am going to change for my husband." She said, "That is alright. There is only one God." So, then I was a Catholic for thirty-five years. Now I don't go anywhere.
- M: Do you know a place called the Dukka Della Brutes?

- G: Oh, God yes. I remember the Dukka Della Brutes. My mother cooked for all of the weddings there.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: They didn't have caterers.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: No. When they had weddings you had your wedding at the Dukka Della Brutes. My mother and her friend, a piason, any Bunula's that got married and had big affairs would have them at the Dukka Della Brutes. That was a nice hall.
- M: Did you get married there?
- G: No, I didn't have a reception. But my sister her reception was there. I had a small reception. It was a men's club but then they rented it out.
- M: Was it mainly for Smokey Hollow people?
- G: Oh, everybody in Smokey Hollow used it but I imagine that others could use it. I don't know about that. I don't know if it was strictly for Smokey Hollow but I know that all of the people down the Hollow that had receptions always had it there. They had the dancing hall upstairs and downstairs was where you ate. You couldn't bring food upstairs.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: They were worried about the floor. My mother and her friend used to do all of the cooking. That was for three or four hundred people. But my mother was really good at that. And she was good at planting and doing the cooking. They used to start a couple of days in advance. They used to have a full course dinner. In fact they would get married at Mount Carmel, then they would go across the street for the breakfast, then they would go to the photographers, then they would come for the meal, a full Italian meal, and then the dancing after the meal.
- M: Wow.
- G: She used to make scrippel's, ewans. My mother used to make bushels in our basement and she used to do it by herself because she had it down pat and she didn't want any help. She would make a crate of eggs, that is twelve dozen eggs, just of those scrippel's and then they would honor her and she would go upstairs on the dance floor and dance with that thing on her head. She

would dance with that big bushel on her head. That was a big thing about her. She did this when she was in her eighties. It is a bowl and she would walk around with that. When used to have an outside oven.

- M: To bake bread?
- G: Yes, all of the old-timers had one. She had pizza or bread coming out of her oven and then this is when she was in her...
- M: What was her name?
- G: Michaelina.
- M: What was her last name?
- G: Donofrio.
- M: Oh, you are a Donofrio?
- G: Yes, but we aren't related to Vito.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: No, that is very common. Just like Rossi and DiLuccia. Those are all common Italian names. We are piasons but we weren't related. We used to have an outside oven. They all did. Every other house had an outside oven. You didn't go and buy bread you made your own.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: Yes, my mother made about thirty loaves a week. I hated that.
- M: Wow.
- G: I used to have to help her carry it all out then I had to wait and carry it all back in the house.
- M: Thirty loaves a week?
- G: With all of those boarders and kids.
- M: Was your husband from Smokey Hollow?
- G: Yes, he was born here.
- M: Where did he live at?
- G: Here on Court Street.
- M: Oh, this is his family's house?

- G: Yes. I think that he was born next door. It is part of the property.
- M: How did you meet him? At a dance?
- G: I met him going to school. I would see him in the neighborhood going up and down the street and we would say, "Hi." But I think that we became friends we were started to go to school. And I saw him a couple of times going to school and then after the service when I was walking to work one morning he stopped and asked me if I wanted a ride and he remembered me and that is how we started to date. We dated about five years before we got married.
- M: Did people tend to marry within the Hollow?
- G: Quite a few of them did. As I saw there were a lot of fixed marriages.
- M: Did your husband have a nickname?
- G: Oh, God if I tell it he will die. It was Chinc.
- M: I heard that everybody had nicknames.
- G: Yes. When he smiles his eyes get real small and they used to call him Chinaman and then they shortened it to Chinc. My brother-in-law was Charlie Chap, you have heard of Charlie Chaplin haven't you?
- M: Yes.
- G: Well, he used to have that kind of a mustache.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: Yes, that is why they called him Charlie Chap. Every-body had a nickname. My brothers name was Angelo and they used to call him Sponge cake and from that they went to Spange. Then there was Mousey, who is related to Vito Donofrio.
- M: Well, Vito was ice.
- G: Yes. I hate to tell you what they called me.
- M: Oh, did you have one?
- G: Oh, yes.
- M: Usually I hear the men's nicknames not the women's.
- G: Dare I say it.

- M: Go ahead.
- G: Bushel Ass. Because I was chubby.
- M: I heard the men like Kurp Vecharelli, New Castle. Did you hear the story about Peaceful Sam? Did you know about him?
- G: Tell me about Peaceful Sam.
- M: He was shot and killed down here. Did you know?
- G: Yes, but I don't remember...
- M: See, I heard that he was boot-legging wine.
- G: Probably. Everybody was boot-legging. In fact we used to even have boot-legging whiskey in our garage. My mother used to rent it to the boot-leggers across the street because she was getting \$50 a month for it. They raided it. The cops came and they broke the garage and broke all of the whiskey all over the street.
- M: Oh, wow. Did your mother get in trouble?
- G: No, because it was his whiskey. She told them that she didn't know what was in there, but she knew.
- M: A lot of that went on?
- G: Oh, sure.
- M: Do you think that a lot of it went on all over Youngs-town?
- G: Oh, I am sure that it did.
- M: Do you remember any secret tunnels or underground things around here?
- G: Well, no. Not when I was a kid. I don't remember any secret tunnels.
- M: I heard that some houses had secret tunnels for bootlegging. That is what I heard but I don't know if it is true.
- G: Well, maybe they did. See, I told you that my mother made wine and she sold wine. Then people that had the whiskey lived across the street from us but I don't know where they made it. They didn't make it there but they used to store it in our garage. In fact the kid that used to deliver the whiskey, I used to go with him for a ride. I remember he had a car and he would said,

- "Do you want a ride." I would say, "Okay, I'll come," before I was caught.
- M: Was the black hand strong down here?
- G: Yes. The black hand was strong but nobody ever bothered us. I think that that was mostly gossip. I know there was a lot of card playing and bocce. All of the Cumbardas' and piasons' and the weekends and days that they didn't work. That is where bocce originated real-In fact my brother-in-law after he married my sister, which was strange, they moved into the house that I was born in after they got married, and he had a bocce court in his backyard. And they used to bocce all of the time and then we used to look over the court for pennies. We used to go an check out the court everyday when they played bocce. Then they used to play morre, and scope. That was the past time. They didn't go to beer gardens. There weren't too many beer gardens.
- M: Do you remember what Casise's was like back then?
- G: I have no idea. I have lived in this neighborhood and I have never lived in Casise's.
- M: Never?
- G: Never.
- M: Wow. Did you know the old man Casise?
- G: Yes, I knew the old man and his wife.
- M: What was he like?
- G: He seemed pleasant enough. I would talk to him in passing. One of his granddaughters went to school with my kids, in fact she is a good friend of my daughters. They are nice people. But I have never been to Casise's. It is strange because a lot of people come down. A lot of the university people come down. And we go out to eat every week but we don't want to go to Casise's.
- M It is practically right next door.
- G: Yes, and that isn't like going out.
- M: You could walk there. Did you know Edward DeBartolo?
- G: He lived right around the corner from where I was born.
- M: Did you know him?

- G: No, I didn't know him. But I knew DeBartolo when I worked for Gray Drugstore. Do you want to hear that story?
- M: Sure, go ahead.
- G: He built the Uptown. When I first started working for Gray Drugstore I worked downtown and then they started expanding and they were building this new building on the corner of Uptown and Market Street and that is where their original offices were, their first offices. So, I was offered a transfer because I was a super sales girl.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: Yes. So, anyhow they had their offices upstairs and Gray Drugstore was downstairs and I was in the cosmetic department. In those days drugstores had departments. It isn't like it is today. You had a cigar department, a pharmaceutical department, everything was so great. So, he used to come in to talk with the pharmacist and his wife used to come in and get prescriptions and his sister-in-law also. And just coming in and out we used to talk, "Hello, how are you?" I was a big Indians fan. I still am. I love baseball. And he was a Yankee fan. We used to bet quarters. DeBartolo would take the Yankees' and I would take the Indians'.
- M: Was this with Edward DeBartolo Senior's father?
- G: Ed DeBartolo Sr.
- M: Oh, this is Ed DeBartolo Sr.
- G: He used to give us tickets to the games and at that time I was dating my husband and we used to have these nice boxed seats.
- M: Up at Cleveland Stadium?
- G: Yes.
- M: Did you used to go up to Cleveland Stadium often?
- G: Oh, yes sure. I saw the 1954 World Series.
- M: That was a heart breaker. Did you go up to that game?
- G: Oh, sure. I was there. I was in New York too. The year before I was married, which was 1954, wasn't there a World Series in New York?
- M: The World Series in 1954 was in Cleveland, maybe 1955 or 1953 might have been in New York, I don't know. They

- played San Francisco in 1954 I believe.
- G: It must have been the year before because I went the year before I was married, because it was my last vacation. I haven't gone anywhere since.
- M: Did you used to take the trains up to Cleveland?
- G: Oh, yes. Trains all of the time. The Erie and B&O trains. Trains and buses but mostly trains. Trains were terrific. I used to do a lot of traveling. In fact my first vacation away from home...I used to go to West Virginia a lot because we had relatives, but I don't count that as a vacation. But my first vacation on my own was at the first World's Fair in 1939. And do you know how I earned money to go to that?
- M: How?
- G: I washed walls for \$1.00 a day.
- M: Where was that at?
- G: In New York City. That was when television first came out. I couldn't get over it.
- M: 1939?
- G: Yes.
- M: What was the World's Fair like? What was it like going away from the Smokey Hollow for the first time?
- G: Oh, I loved it. I had a great time. I went up on the train with my girlfriend and we stayed with a girlfriend in New Jersey and then we took the ferry to New York City.
- M: How long were you away?
- G: I was away for five days that first time and I came home...I went with \$100 and I came with \$.02. Do you know what I did with my last \$2.00?
- M: What?
- G: I bought a hat at Sax Fifth Avenue.
- M: Oh, really? Do you still have it?
- G: No, I gave it away. I should have kept it. It was a beauty. Then I went to New York City five times all together.
- M: Really? I have never been there.

- G: Oh, don't go now. But when I went we used to go and walk on Broadway at 3:00 a.m. and nobody bothered you. We used to go to all of the plays and shopping. I had a friend that I worked with at Gray Drug and we used to play our vacations together. We would send away for tickets. We had everything planned and set. Nobody bothered you. It was wonderful. But I wouldn't go now.
- M: No. As far as like the weekends in Smokey Hollow, did people get together? Were there picnics? What kinds of things did you used to do for enjoyment?
- G: Oh, yes we used to have picnics. And guess what they had at picnics, not hamburgers.
- M: Spaghetti?
- G: Right. It used to kill me. We would go on an picnic and they would take these great big pots and put them over the fire. We used to go to Idora Park, Yankee Lake, Harding Park.
- M: What was Idora Park like back then?
- G: Oh, it was terrific. It had all of the rides. One time the Wild Cat, that was the biggest thing at one time, I think that I went on that thing...It was \$.03 a ride and they used to have these special days when they had these cheap rides and I think that I rode that thing about twelve times without getting up off of my seat.
- M: Did you used to take a trolley down?
- G: We used to walk to Idora Park. We wouldn't spend our money on trolleys. We used to walk from down here Smokey Hollow to Idora Park. I told you when I was a teenager I used to walk. They used to have dancing there at Idora Park Ballroom for \$.25 you could dance. I used to go dance and then come home and get a licking. I used to love to dance. I married a man...When we were going together I was going to teach him how to dance and he was going to teach me how to drive, he doesn't dance and I don't drive. I told my kids we were busy necking. He never learned to dance and I never learned to drive.
- M: Did you used to go to the movies a lot down in Youngs-town?
- G: Oh, \$.25 for a double feature. I saw all of the Frank Sinatra and Vic Dimone and all of them.
- M: So, that was entertainment?

- G: Yes, it used to be the Palace Theater, which is a parking lot now. That is a shame. That was a gorgeous and beautiful theater. We used to go once a week and they used to have different shows.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: Yes, stage shows. I would skip school. They had a lot of theaters downtown in those days. There were about eleven or twelve theaters.
- M: I heard that you would go from one to the other.
- G: Oh, that is what I did. Then \$.05 you started with...We used to go to two of them, they had double features. It was on a Saturday afternoon for \$.05. We would go to the Regent, Strand. But I always saw first rated movies. They didn't have reruns.
- M: Oh, no? Just one time?
- G: Yes. They didn't have neighborhood theaters. We used to go downtown for Jay's Hotdogs. If there was nothing to do you went downtown for a hotdog and an Isaly's ice cream. They had an Isaly's on West Federal Street.
- M: Did you used to go with a lot of friends from the Smokey Hollow?
- G: Oh, yes. All of us would get together and, "Let's go down and get an ice cream."
- M: Did a parent ever drive or did you just walk?
- G: No, we always walked. In fact when we were teenagers and we started dancing, we used to walk to the Ritz Bar. It was on Wilson Avenue then. It was Cafaro's. That was their first bar.
- M: Oh, really.
- G: Yes, Bill Cafaro, he was a bartender there. We used to go up there and we used to dance and walk from Wilson Avenue down to East Federal Street to Smokey Hollow at 2:30 a.m. and nobody bothered us.
- M: Wow. That is amazing.
- G: Just once I had a problem. I was coming home from Gray Drugstore and there was the McGuffey bus then that came down Andrew's Avenue, which is a block away from where I lived, and I just missed the bus and I had worked till 9:30 p.m. that night and so I walked because the buses would come every half hour or so and I figured that I would be home in five minutes. I walked and I

heard footsteps and I turned around and it was a young kid and I thought that I didn't have to worry because it was a young kid. Don't you know that little snot grabbed me. After I walked another half block he came up around me and he grabbed me and we got on top of the hill here and ran and he grabbed me and I screamed and three men came running out.

- M: Oh, really?
- G: They chased him and got away from him. In fact one of them came out from Casise's, and another from his house, and another one from a store.
- M: That is wild.
- G: We always walked everywhere.
- M: What kinds of games did you play down here in the Smokey Hollow when you were young?
- G: One Foot Off of the Mud Gutter.
- M: I heard of Mud Gutter but what is it?
- G: I loved it. It was the curb. Then you had a team. One team was on the street and the other team was on the curb and the leader would yell, "One foot off of the Mud Gutter." And you would jump one foot. Then two feet off and then they would try to grab you while you were jumping and then if they touched you you were out. We played Kick the Can, Hide and Seek, Pull the Cherry.
- M: Maybe I shouldn't ask about that one.
- G: Don't ask. We used to have a team and they would bend over and they would jump on you. Like four kids would bend over and two kids would jump on you at a time and then they would put their hand behind their but, pull the cherry.
- M: I never heard that one. I heard of Sockie. Have you ever heard of that one?
- G: No.
- M: I think that the guys played a baseball game and they would wrap up a sock.
- G: Oh, yes.
- M: Did you used to go over to Harrison Field a lot and watch the guys play softball?
- G: Yes.

- M: Was that maybe on a Sunday afternoon?
- G: Yes, on Sunday afternoon we used to go over and watch the kids play.
- M: Did your husband play?
- G: Well, my husband was probably more into sports.
- M: Did he play after you were married?
- G: No.
- M: How about when you were going with him?
- G: No, he didn't play. I don't know if he did when he was younger. He wasn't on any team.
- M: What can you tell me about the Golden Eagles?
- G: Well, the Golden Eagles was a Smokey Hollow Club. I don't know how they started. They had a little club right across from the MVR.
- M: Was your husband in?
- G: Yes, my husband was in, but I don't know too much about it because they broke up before we got married. I don't know too much about the Golden Eagles. See, we had nothing to do past Carlton Street. I had nothing to do with these kids because we didn't go to school together. Most of those children went to St. Cyril's and it was just a "Hello, how are you?" All of our friends were from Emerald Street, Audubon Street.
- M: So, it was kind of sectioned off?
- G: It was kind of sectioned off yes.
- M: School district wise mainly?
- G: Yes.
- M: Was there an organization for the women at all? Was there ever a Golden Eagles for Women?
- G: They may have but I don't know. I really don't know. I was never really involved. The only organization that I was ever in was St. Monica's at Mount Carmel for thirty years.
- M: Were there any unaccepted people ever living down in the Smokey Hollow? I mean people that came in?

- G: No. We used to have blacks on Valley Street. They had flats you know.
- M: Yes.
- G: I went to school with blacks. I walked to school with them and sat next to them. We never did personally. We didn't have any blacks living around us because they were all Italians', Slovaks' or German, but I never had any problems.
- M: Do you remember ever hearing about any?
- G: No. That is why I am amazed. And even now one of my best friends lives across the street. I just love him. He is a doll and we look out for each other.
- M: That is nice.
- G: No problems. That is why I get irked when people say, "Aren't you afraid to live down in the Smokey Hollow?"
- M: You obviously still live here, why do you think that people began to move out of Smokey Hollow?
- G: Probably a lot of them moved after they got married or maybe they wanted to buy better homes. My husband won't move. I keep telling him, "This house is too big for us." My children are all out on their own and this is a huge home. This is four floors with a finished attic. My husband's mother had ten children.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: Yes, and it is really a big house. It is really too big for us. I would like to go into a two room apartment.
- M: Your house down on Audubon Street, what did that house look like? Can you describe what that house looked like physically?
- G: Oh, yes. It was three rooms downstairs, a kitchen living room, and a dining room, then three bedrooms and an attic, and a coal cellar and a wine cellar and a fruit cellar.
- M: Now let me ask this question, when you lived there did you ever add on to that room?
- G: My mother's, where I was born?
- M: Yes.
- G: No.

- M: Then when you came here to Court Street is this what the house looked like?
- G: Yes, there hasn't been any changes.
- M: Because I know that a lot of people added on.
- G: Well, they added on to this house, they made a three room apartment for the family because they had children and they added on to this house.
- M: Behind you?
- G: Yes. In fact it has been rented for years.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: Yes. But now it needs repairs. They don't want to spend the money on it.
- M: Do you get a lot of flack from your friends to move out?
- G: Oh, yes. I have one that calls me and he lives in Boardman and he keeps telling me, "What are you doing down there? Why don't you move?"
- M: Did he live down there?
- G: Yes, he lived down there. I always tell him, "Sure, you're a hotshot now and you got rich and you moved to Boardman." I am still poor and I'm still in Smokey Hollow.
- M: Do you keep in touch with a lot of your friends?
- G: Oh, yes.
- M: Do you talk about Smokey Hollow?
- G: Well, yes. In fact I just had a friend who came in from California, the one that I used to go dancing with, and she came to visit me and another woman and we call and keep in touch. We are still friends. But you know now days, you are young but when you get older you don't visit like you used to. Now you see each other at wakes and weddings. If somebody from Smokey Hollow dies it is like a three-ringed circus at the funeral homes. "Oh, hey, how are you..." I am embarrassed and ashamed of myself in fact because I flip from this one to that one.
- M: Do you attend the women's reunion that they have?

- G: Yes, I went to the three of them and the third one was boring and I quit going.
- M: What was wrong?
- G: Well, it was alright. Well, my close friends are out of town but after the third one I wasn't interested anymore.
- M: Was that when they still had them here at Mount Carmel?
- G: No, the last one that they had was at the Wick Pollock.
- M: You didn't go to that one?
- G: No, I didn't go to that one. I went to the first three and I haven't gone back and I don't plan on going anymore.
- M: You said that you don't attend the War Memorial when they have the service there.
- G: No.
- M: Some people have trouble with this question so you can take your time thinking about it.
- G: Maybe I won't want to answer it.
- M: It isn't bad. What is your most memorable experience about living down there? If you could pick out one or a couple. Something that really stands out in your mind about living down in Smokey Hollow.
- G: I think that the nicest thing about it was the friendliness and the giving and people looked out for one
 another. Now there is nothing left really. There aren't
 that many families. When it was really the Hollow with
 all the different friends and cumarda's...I always
 loved the fact that if I needed something I could go
 down next door or across the street because I have had
 friends that have told me that they have lived in
 neighborhoods where they don't even talk to their
 neighbors. I can't believe that.
- M: I think that everybody I have interviewed, you and Don MastroPietro are the only ones that live down here and I have interviewed people in Hubbard and Boardman and they said that they don't even know their neighbors.
- G: They don't even know their neighbors? I can't imagine that.
- M: That is one of the worst things, John Mascardine, he

- said "I would love to move back down there to the way that it was."
- G: That is right. That is what I will always remember, the friendliness, the giving, and the generosity. I told you what they did for my dad.
- M: What was probably the best decade to live down here, 1930's, 1940's, 1950's?
- G: Oh, I imagine the 1930's and 1940's. Because then after that people started moving.
- M: Do you remember when YSU built their stadium down here?
- G: Yes.
- M: Do you remember them coming around here and wanting to buy?
- G: No, I was just hoping that they would be coming across the street and want to buy a house.
- M: I have talked to a lot of people who said that they wished that they would have built it down here.
- G: Yes.
- M: Would you have wanted to stay if a football stadium was built down here?
- G: Sure, that would have been fine. In fact I think that is the ugliest thing going. Those steps are bad.
- M: Yes, they are bad.
- G: And when it is cold you really feel the cold up there. I don't go because I hate football.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: I love baseball and I love basketball but not football.
- M: I am a baseball fan too.
- G: Now my girlfriend is across the street she said that they... In fact the lots that are along, the University owns, and right up above, owns the Yankee lots. They would buy that side of the street in a flash but they don't want this side.
- M: Why is that?
- G: I don't know.

- M: Do you think that it is okay what YSU is doing now?
- G: Fine. It doesn't bother me. No, I think that it is great.
- M: If you could change anything about living down in Smokey Hollow would you ever change anything about life down here or in any ways make it a little different?
- G: Well, what could you do now there is nothing left.
- M: How about back when you used to live
- G: Oh, no I loved it. I loved the neighbors.
- M: How about now? Would you do anything to make it different now?
- G: No, well you can't do anything now because there is nothing left. There are about ten homes here. Emerald Street has a few more homes.
- M: Is the house that you still live in still up?
- G: No.
- M: Are they still standing?
- G: No, I lived across the street from Tip Top. There was a store on the corner.
- M: Oh, okay.
- G: Then there is two lots and one was my mother's house and I am stinking mad about that too. Because when my mother passed away I wanted to get rid of the property. She made a will that if I wasn't married the house was mine, but if I got married it belonged to my brothers. So, then she passed away and I wanted to get rid of it because I tried renting it. I rented to Big Brothers and they didn't pay and I trouble collecting. Then I had to carry insurance and insurance was sky high on an empty house. So, I sold it for \$1200 to a private realtor and two years later the house next door was up to and the University bought that house for \$10,000.
- M: Oh, my God.
- G: Now before I sold it to a private realator I called the University and they said they weren't interested.
- M: And a year later they bought that one for \$10,000. Holy macrole.
- G: All that I got was \$1200. And I got rid of it because...

- M: It was a burden?
- G: Yes.
- M: I would be heart-sick too.
- G: The house was in bad shape and needed repairs and I was afraid that somebody might get hurt and sue me because the kids were starting to break the windows and go in. So, I just didn't want to have nothing to do with it. But we got our moneys worth out of it. My mother I think had it brand new. They had it built and I think that they paid \$2000 for it. The house was about seventy years old when I sold it.
- M: Somebody told me once that when they come down here now that they can't believe how many houses fit into a lot on a street. John Mascardine told me, "You go down there now it is all an empty parking lot, but back then there would be like fifteen homes."
- G: Yes. Well, did you look at Emerald Street? There are a few of them right close there.
- M: Yes, down there towards the bottom. That is amazing. Is there anything that you would like to add that I may have left out life down here in Smokey Hollow?
- G: Only that I loved it and I recognize everybody and nobody bothers us. We have good neighbors, the few that we have. No problems.
- M: I think neighbors are real important.
- G: It was nice for me with the kids and school. The kids went to St. Joseph's and then they went to St. Cyril's and then they went to YSU and Ursuline.
- M: They went to Ursuline?
- G: Yes. They all walked to school and it was very convenient.
- M: You never sent your kids to East or Rayen?
- G: I wouldn't think of sending my kids to East or Rayen. No, I wanted them to go to private school because being a high school drop out I realized. I subscribe to about ten magazines and I go to the library every week and I try to keep informed and I always read that a private school was a better education for the children. So, we wanted them to have that and we did. Of course when I sent my kids to Ursuline it was \$75 a year when my daughter graduated.

- M: Now it is \$2000.
- G: Yes. Well, they all got and paid for their education. This one is a Marketing Personnel and she worked at Bank One for years. Now they are on Belmont Avenue, they make toys. My first daughter Joy, got her degree in Social Work. In fact one of her teachers who is still up there teaching and she got grants and loans and went to Case Western Reserve. She got her Master's at Case Western Reserve and went into Social Work and she did it for two years and she hated it. She is very outgoing and I told her from the beginning she should have been a lawyer. But anyhow now she is Personnel Management for Joseph Horne's in Pittsburgh. She is doing real good.

My son Joey, he went to the service. He was in the Navy for two years and when he graduated from high school he didn't want to go to school, college, so he was in the Navy for two years and when he came home he decided to go to school and now he is into computers and he works in New York City for Marriott Hotels.

- M: Wow.
- G: He sets up computers. My third daughter is living in Baltimore and she works for a pharmaceutical office.
- M: They sound pretty successful. Did they all ...
- G: Two months ago she went to San Diego all expenses paid she and her husband for one week in San Diego because she earned the most money.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: Yes. She calls my doctors.
- M: They all grew up here and were raised here?
- G: Yes, they were all born here. This is the only home that they have known. They went to school, worked and paid for college all by themselves.
- M: There are a lot of successful stories that come out of Smokey Hollow.
- G: We could have afforded it. My husband used to put money on their dressers to pay for their tuition but they would all put it back.
- M: Where did your husband work at?
- G: My husband worked with Wean United.

- M: Is he retired?
- G: Yes, he is retired. But the kids all did babysitting and this one here worked at the YSU library when she was going to school. Joey worked for Dr. Ford, he had a practice but he is in Arizona now. After school she worked with him. Jill used to babysit and she worked in the Admitting at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. And my son Joey's first job was when he was thirteen years old at Twentieth Century Restaurant on Belmont Avenue. We lied about his age. Then he worked on Andrews Avenue while he was going to school. They all worked to pay for school.
- M: A lot of successful stories. Freddy Quatro who is a doctor. So, much success from the Smokey Hollow. People just wanted so much better for their children.
- G: Yes, right. And Dom Rosselli my gosh. His dad wasn't an educated person.
- M: He made it good for himself.
- G: Yes, he did.
- M: Well, can you think of anything else? Do you know why that they called it Smokey Hollow?
- G: Because they said the smoke from the steel mills used to settle. That is what I heard but I don't know.
- M: Did you have to clean your house a lot.
- G: I told you that is the first thing that I would do when I got up in the morning is wipe the soot off of the porch. It was awful. Especially, in the wintertime you would see it on the snow. It was always loaded with soot.
- M: Do you remember the snow of 1950?
- G: Oh, yes. I was working and I couldn't get out of the door. I was dating my husband and working at Gray Drugstore. He used to pick me up a lot of mornings because he used to work with his brothers, Gaetano's. They used to have the Airport Tavern.
- M: Oh, okay.
- G: He used to work there and before he would go to work he would pick me up and drive me to work so I wouldn't have to take a bus. I was getting dressed and he call. He said, "You wouldn't be going to work." I said, "What are you talking about?" He said, "Look out your door?"

That was terrible.

- M: Do you remember what happened down here? Did people get together?
- G: Yes. Everybody helped. Another thing that we used to have was our basements flooded.
- M: Oh, really?
- G: From a bad creek before they fixed it. And when your basement was flooded everybody came and helped. Everybody always...You weren't afraid to ask anybody. People were close.
- M: Don MastroPietro showed me a key that fit maybe like thirty houses.
- G: Yes, a skeleton key.
- M: You could go in anybody's house, nobody ever did but you could use it.
- G: We never had any break in's.
- M: Even lately?
- G: Well, I don't know about there but not right around here. We never had any problems. That is why I get irked when people say, "Your still living down the Hollow?" Like it is so crime ridden, it isn't.
- M: Did you see the specials on the news maybe five years ago when they...
- G: Yes, it was on one of the channels.
- M: Thirty-three I think.
- G: Yes. It was sort of a derogitory.
- M: Yes, it didn't make things in Smokey Hollow look too good.
- G: No. it didn't.
- M: I think that they called it the Dying City.
- G: Yes, something like that.
- M: Well, thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW