

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Smokey Hollow

Personal Experience

O.H. 1390

STELLA A. ZONE

Interviewed

by

Joseph E. Mancini

on

October 30, 1990

STELLA ANN ZONE

Stella Ann Zone was born on August 3, 1925 at 367 North Watt Street in Smokey Hollow. She, two brothers, and one sister lived most of their lives in the Hollow. Her father, Anthony, worked at the railroad and died in 1939. Stella's mother, Antoinette, kept busy raising the children. Stella lived in an eight room house with her family and her uncles family. Miss Zone attended Madison, Hayes, and Rayen schools, respectively.

Stella Zone had several jobs before attending college at Youngstown University. She worked as a timekeeper at General Fireproofing, as an assembly person during World War II at the same company and at Republic Rubber for some time. She started college at the age of thirty-five under the Diocesan Plan. She was to get her school paid for by the Diocese, but had to work for them for two years after graduation in 1967. She stayed on for twenty years while teaching first grade at St. James in Campbell. She received her Masters Degree in 1971.

She now works for the Youngstown City Schools teaching second grade at Roosevelt Elementary School. She lives with her sister Sue and brother Anthony (Spike), in Austintown. She moved out of the Smokey Hollow in 1980. Stella belongs to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and belongs to the N.R.T.A. Stella enjoyed her life in the Smokey Hollow and has many fond memories of the people who lived their. She does keep in touch with them and attends the women's reunion held once a year. Her family also attends the memorial service held each year at the Smokey Hollow

War Memorial.

She still goes to the Hollow once a week to visit a friend who still lives there. She has no regrets of moving out but wished that Y.S.U. would have built their stadium there. Stella enjoys gardening and bowling in her free time.

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INTERVIEWEE: STELLA A. ZONE

INTERVIEWER: Joseph E. Mancini

SUBJECT: Family life; Depression; WWII; war memorial;
reunions; jobs

DATE: October 30, 1990

M: This is an interview with Stella Zone for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the Smokey Hollow, by Joseph Mancini, on October 30th, 1990, at 3375 Sandalwood Drive, Austintown, Ohio, at 8:00 p.m.

Could we start off just a little bit by telling me when you were born, and where, and some of the schools you attended?

Z: I was born August 3, 1925. I went to Madison Grade School, Hayes Junior High, and Rayen High School.

M: What period of time did you live down in Smokey Hollow? From when to when did you move out?

Z: I moved out in 1980. I lived there most of my life.

M: Okay. Were you born in your house or were you born in the hospital?

Z: I was born in the house.

M: As far as occupations from your parents, did your father work or mother?

Z: My father worked at the railroad, but he died in 1939.

He died very young.

M: Oh, he did?

Z: Yes.

M: Do you remember which railroad or company?

Z: No.

M: Do you remember what he did?

Z: He worked as a laborer on the railroad.

M: How many brothers and sisters?

Z: I have two brothers and one sister.

M: How long did they live in the Hollow?

Z: Well, they were born there they lived there most of their lives. My one brother was in the service, he got married; Sue and Anthony, Mom and I moved in 1980. We all lived in the Hollow most of our lives.

M: What was your address down there?

Z: 367 North Watt Street.

M: As far as location wise is that considered to be in the middle of Smokey Hollow?

Z: Oh, that is in Smokey Hollow. Like, on Watt Street we went to Rayen School. On the opposite side of the street they went to East High School.

M: Did you have a lot of friends that went to different schools?

Z: Yes.

M: Some went to East High and Rayen I want to talk about schools real quick, how about Ursuline? Did a lot of kids go to Ursuline while you were living there?

Z: Let's see...There was Donald, I think that was it.

M: Did all of your friends go to Ursuline?

Z: No. Just a few of them Worrellia family, they went to Ursuline and that was it.

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

Z: Well, it was a two family house. We lived on one side

and my uncle and his family on the other. It was an eight house, four and four. And we shared. There was a door in between and it was one big family.

M: When you say, was it two houses connected?

Z: It was one house but there was a kitchen, bedroom, living room, you know four and four.

M: Was there a basement?

Z: Basement. In fact our bathrooms were in the basement.

M: Oh, really?

Z: Yes.

M: Did you have a coal furnace?

Z: Yes.

M: What was that like having a coal furnace?

Z: It was nice. When we were very small we had a coal stove in the kitchen.

M: Oh, really?

Z: Yes, and I can remember my mother hanging clothes when I was very small. She would hang a line in the kitchen and hang clothes there to dry them out.

M: Was your house typical of all the other houses in the neighborhood or was it a little bit different?

Z: I think that it was typical.

M: As far as living in Smokey Hollow, what do you think made Smokey Hollow so unique? Today, people say, "I came from the Hollow." What does that mean?

Z: Oh, the people themselves, we were one big family. Everybody helped one another. You could walk down the street and everybody would talk.

M: Was that general throughout the whole area of Smokey Hollow?

Z: Yes.

M: Can you remember any incidences where maybe it wasn't like that?

Z: No, it was like that most of the time until lately when it started to get different, people were moving out,

but it has been like that most of our lives. It was a lot of fun. Everybody would hang around on the corner and everybody would sit around and talk or go over each others house. It was very, very, nice.

M: What was it like living down there during the Depression? Do you remember anything about that?

Z: Well, we were young. I can remember my uncles. Uncle Tone and Uncle Jim. They went delivering papers. They said when they were young they used to tell us about a horse and a wagon somewhere down in the neighborhood.

M: In Smokey Hollow?

Z: Yes.

M: They used to deliver papers on a horse and wagon?

Z: No, they didn't but they remembered, they were talking about this horse and wagon, but they used to go downtown and sell newspapers.

M: Did your father work during the Depression at the railroad?

Z: He was working with the railroad.

M: He never lost his job?

Z: I don't really know how long. We were young when he died. I can remember when they were building Andrews Avenue they were putting all of the concrete down. I was small and I had a split chin, I used to go down there and watch them do the work.

M: Oh, really?

Z: Yes.

M: How about World War II? Do you remember what it was like living down there during World War II? Was there anything special that went on just for the soldiers?

Z: Well, my brother was in the service and he was in the submarines, we didn't hear from him for a long time. And Billy Santore, a young friend, was killed in the service.

M: Oh, really?

Z: There were quite a few neighborhood boys that were killed in the service. They have that memorial service up on Walnut Street, we go there every year.

M: Do you?

Z: Oh, yes, every year.

M: What is that like?

Z: You go there and you see all the people from the Hollow; they come back again just to remember those boys. Their names are listed on the memorial.

M: That must be nice.

Z: It is very nice.

M: It is good that they do that.

Z: I have been going there every year. Now that we moved we make a special trip every year on Memorial Day.

M: Did you work while you lived in Smokey Hollow?

Z: Yes. When I got out of school I worked at General Fireproofing as a time keeper. Then during the war I worked on the assembly line for awhile.

M: Where at?

Z: Assembly plant for airplanes, at General Fireproofing.

M: Oh, really?

Z: Yes.

M: You were Rosie the Riviter?

Z: No. Then I went to Republic Rubber. I was laid off, called back laid off again.

M: Do you remember the dates of that?

Z: Well, I didn't start college until I was about thirty-five years old.

M: I see.

Z: So, all that time...I worked at Republic Rubber off and on. I was laid off. I worked at Consolidated; then I decided that I better get into college. I went under the Diocesan Plan.

M: What was that?

Z: They pay your tuition if you say that you will work for them for two years...

M: After you get out?

Z: Yes, after you get out.

M: What did you do after?

Z: I have stayed with them for twenty years.

M: What do you do?

Z: Teaching, at St. John's in Campbell until they closed. When they closed I went to Youngstown Public Schools.

M: How did you get your job at GF? Did you know somebody? Did somebody help you from the Hollow?

Z: Well, my uncle worked there and a lot of neighbors worked there.

M: I heard that...Especially, in Smokey Hollow, if somebody got a job at GF that is wasn't a problem for somebody else to get in.

Z: Yes.

M: How about shopping and stores...What was it like?

Z: Well, Sue and I used to work; on Saturdays we would go shopping. We would go to one movie, come out and go to another movies. We saw two movies a day.

M: In downtown Youngstown?

Z: Yes, downtown Youngstown was great. We always shopped downtown as long as Strousses and McKelvey's were there. When they moved out we had to shop at the mall. I liked shopping in town. Now there is really nothing since they moved out.

M: How about as far as Nazerine's or Ciarnello's? Did you used to go to those stores?

Z: Always at Nazerine's. Good old grocery store.

M: Down around the corner.

Z: Yes. We always were teased because there were four of us in our house and we were the big ice cream eaters. We would go into the store and buy half a gallon of ice cream, many, many half a gallons, I used to tell Nick, "Hey Nick, let's have the truck park at our house and fill up our freezer." Because one time I counted in one week, there were eighteen half gallons, but my brother ate a half gallon all by himself.

M: Oh, really? This is Nicky Nazerine right?

Z: Yes.

M: Okay. Was there a lot of credit given at those stores?

Z: Nicki did. Nicki carried a lot of people.

M: Did he?

Z: Yes, he did. Then the people paid their bill a little bit at a time, but he carried them. He was a very nice person.

M: Was that unique to the Hollow or did you hear about that happening in other places in Youngstown?

Z: I think Nicky was unique. In fact Sue and I went to visit him this summer.

M: Oh, really? Is he still alive?

Z: Yes. He is handicapped but we went to see him. We even went to his fiftieth wedding anniversary.

M: Wow.

Z: That was real nice and they invited some of the people from the Hollow, they couldn't invite everyone because it was too expensive, but it was very nice.

M: Do you remember any specific case where he really helped out some families that may have have been financially...Where he really went out of his way for?

Z: Well, like I said everybody ran up a bill for him. At one time, I can remember at Christmas time, he used to give a family a special gift, either a box of candy or something. He would always give someone something.

M: Oh, really?

Z: Yes.

M: You don't see that anymore.

Z: No, no, no.

M: What do you consider the boundaries of Smokey Hollow? East, West, North, and South?

Z: Well, I always thought that the Hollow was from Rayen Avenue down and Emerald Street, Kirkland. Most of the houses are down because of the University has taken the houses. I consider that the Hollow. But when we have

the Smokey Hollow reunion every year people from Summit Avenue come and they consider that the Smokey Hollow. They consider Scott Street the Smokey Hollow but I always thought of the Smokey Hollow as the ones down in.

M: Okay, just the ones down in the Hollow.

Z: Yes.

M: Do you remember Crab Creek? Do you remember it going that far?

Z: Oh, Crab Creek. When we were small we had to walk up Valley Street to go to kindergarten. I can remember going down Crab Creek. When we were young, before they fixed the creek, it rained and it was flooded. They had to get people out of their houses with boats.

M: Down in the Hollow?

Z: Down on Valley Street on Andrews Avenue.

M: Boats?

Z: Yes, they had little boats.

M: Now it is cemented there?

Z: Now it is cemented there and it doesn't get flooded anymore.

M: But you would consider that the Hollow went that far East?

Z: I would say to Andrews Avenue but it didn't go all the way up Valley Street. I mean Valley Street ran all the way up to Albert Street, but I considered Valley Street, and Emerald Street.

M: I think that I got a general consensus of that with the same boundaries. What do you think made Smokey Hollow so unique in its ethnic background? I mean Slovaks got along with Italians and Jews and everybody got along why do you think so?

Z: Because I think close knit families are the reason. The way we were raised. I guess because we all were in the same boat, working hard and keeping the families together and we were very happy. We may not have been rich but we were happy.

M: Do you remember any conflicts at all between ethnic groups? Italians being prejudice against Slovaks?

Z: No, none whatsoever. I don't remember any. In fact I went to school with a Jewish girl, Dolores Markowitz. She was a very nice person. She lived near Oak Park. I went to her wedding. At that time we weren't supposed to go into the Jewish church, but we went to see Dolores get married.

M: Do you consider Oak Park part of Smokey Hollow.

Z: Well, I never did but I imagine that it would be.

M: I heard that that was like the elite area.

Z: Yes. Well, I don't know if it was elite.

M: Well, that is what I heard that Smokey Hollow there was Oak Park and Oak Park was sort of a little bit nicer because it had a different...You moved out of Smokey Hollow in 1979?

Z: In 1980 we moved.

M: What kinds of things do you think that you pulled from Smokey Hollow? Feelings or values? Do you think that you brought them up to here and your attitudes towards other people in this neighborhood?

Z: Well, this is an entirely different neighborhood. It is a nice neighborhood. You see people, you say, "Hello, how are you?" I will tell you that we don't know names of the neighbors down the street like we did down in the Hollow. In the Hollow when we had my mother and she was like...Well, she had Alzheimer's Disease, she was like a little child. We would take her for a walk around the neighborhood. The people out, even the blacks, would say, "Hello, how is she doing today?" It was just so friendly.

M: It is just so strange to see that.

Z: When we moved here the first year I thought, "Oh, my goodness what did we do? We moved out and it is not the same."

M: Nothing?

Z: Nothing. You always remember back there. But now, Sue and I every Sunday, we go down the Hollow to visit a lady who is handicapped. She has arthritis. We go down there quite often and see the people.

M: I was going to ask you what it is like going down there now, but I will hold off on that one until the end. When you were living in Smokey Hollow could you compare other areas in Youngstown that were similar to that?

Z: Well, I think the people in Briar Hill were probably close knit. Then the East Side. I hear people talking about how they used to gather together on certain streets in certain areas. I guess where you live the closeness is.

M: Do you ever remember going down to Casses's? What was that place like?

Z: Well, like I said, I would walk my mother around the block and there would be men sitting out and it was a beer garden at that time. Men sitting there would say, "Hello, how are you? How is she doing today?" "Fine." It was a beer garden and you would never think of going in that bar.

M: Did a lot of the men hang out there?

Z: Yes.

M: Did you ever hear any stories about that place?

Z: No.

M: For people that didn't live in Smokey Hollow, how do you think that they viewed people that did live in the Hollow? Did you ever hear any remarks that Smokey Hollow was less economically or anything like that?

Z: No. The only thing that you would hear now is the people that moved out say, to people "Are you still down there? Why are you there?" The people like it there. I think we would have stayed there if my mom was well. We had my mother who was sick. We had an elderly lady watching her, it got to the point where some things were happening and you were wondering when you came home from work, "Are they going to be alright? Or is somebody going to break in?" That is the only reason why we really moved.

M: When you were growing up there did you ever hear of any people say bad things about Smokey Hollow?

Z: No.

M: That was less economic or middle-class?

Z: No.

M: Did you used to walk to school?

Z: Yes.

M: You walked to Rayen?

Z: I walked to Rayen High School.

M: What was it like walking?

Z: Oh, when it was real cold we would try to catch the bus. At that time everybody would ride the bus and the bus would pass us up.

M: Oh, really?

Z: Yes, so we had to end up walking. When we would walk to school, we used to walk through Wick Park. Many of the rich people lived there.

M: It must have been nice.

Z: Yes, it was nice. Then in the summertime when I was younger I remember taking...Children from the neighborhood to Wick Park. They had a big cannon there. We used to spend the day playing around with the cannon. We would bring a lunch.

M: As far as the church, what kind of role did the church play in Smokey Hollow? What church did you belong too?

Z: Our Lady of Mount Carmel all our lives.

M: Was the church strong? Was Mount Carmel strong in Smokey Hollow?

Z: Yes.

M: Did a lot of the people belong in Smokey Hollow? I mean belong to Our Lady of Mount Carmel?

Z: Well, I think that more people belong to it now because St. Joseph's moved out and people have moved out. I still think that our church has more people. I can go to another church and I don't feel at home. I have to go back home to Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

M: Oh, really?

Z: Yes.

M: Do you see a lot of the old people that grew up in Smokey Hollow with you down at Mount Carmel?

Z: Some. Like I said most everybody has moved out, but they still belong to Mount Carmel.

M: Did the church ever have any social functions for people in Smokey Hollow or did the people from Smokey

Hollow meet at Mount Carmel or did the priest come down and talk to...Can you remember the priest coming down from Mount Carmel to Smokey Hollow?

Z: No, not that much but I mean they had doings. They belonged to clubs like the Mother of the Crucifix. My mother used to work very hard for the church. They used to have big festivals. They gave that up because fireworks caused some damage and burned someone. I can remember on a special holiday when a band came marching down the street when we were small. They would parade up the streets and then they would go back up.

M: But you can't remember any real social functions that were just for Smokey Hollow people?

Z: No.

M: How about the Dukka Della Brutes? Can you tell me about that? Do you remember that place?

Z: Oh, they had weddings there. I can remember the Duke's when I taught C.C.D. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel for Father Fabrizio. Our classroom was in the Duke's.

M: It was like a hall for weddings?

Z: It was a hall. We had classrooms in the hall. Someone else had classrooms somewhere else. I happened to have mine in that hall. That was a busy place for meetings and weddings.

M: Did you used to go to a lot of weddings up there?

Z: Yes, we used to go up there for weddings.

M: Staying on social functions, what kinds of things can you remember people doing for recreation that lived in Smokey Hollow? On the weekends? You talked a little bit about going to movies...Was that general for all of the people?

Z: Yes. Like I said, we would play baseball down there or kick the can or kick the stick. We would go on picnics. That would be it.

M: Do you remember any family oriented things? Did your family ever go on vacations or anything?

Z: We used to have family reunions when we were young. We used to go to Farmer Jim's.

M: Oh, really?

Z: Yes, all of our family.

M: Did you ever go to Idora Park?

Z: Idora Park.

M: What was that like back then?

Z: Oh, it was nice at Idora Park. It was really nice there.

M: Did you see all of your old friends?

Z: Well, when they would have special days everyone would go there. We would walk all the way from our place up the Isaly's Dairies to get one of those big skyscraper ice creams. They were \$.05, \$.10.

M: Wow. As far as Harrison Field, do you remember a lot of the things that went on there?

Z: Yes. We went and watched my uncle and his friends from GF play baseball. We used to go there and watch soccer games.

M: Oh, really?

Z: We were so surprised to see those men hitting those balls with their head and now soccer it real popular.

M: Yes.

Z: They used to bring teams down there. We would go there and ride the swings.

M: As you were getting older do you remember...You lived down there until 1980. Do you remember Youngstown State University coming over and taking over Harrison Field?

Z: Youngstown State started building that parking lot. There was a lot of hard feelings with tearing the peoples' houses down. They had to move, the people didn't want to move. They weren't making that much money. Up on Walnut Street when they first took those houses. It was very bad.

M: Yes. Do you remember YSU wanting to build their stadium down there?

Z: Yes, that would have been the best place for the stadium. That is where it was supposed to be built now it is that big old thing. It is too high.

M: You don't like that stadium?

Z: No, I would never go up there, but down in the Hollow would have been an ideal place.

M: As far as a general consensus, did a lot of the people want that stadium built down in the Hollow?

Z: At first when they said that they were going to built there.

M: Do you remember like what kinds of plans they were going to have down there or policies?

Z: Well, I remember one time going down to City Hall or the Courthouse and seeing the plans for where the stadium was going to be at. Like where Harrison Field was. That would have been an ideal place. Whether everyone would have wanted it at that time or not I don't know but I think that the way that they did it, hurt so many people. They broke up the Hollow so much.

M: Yes.

Z: That is what they did.

M: Well, you are talking a little bit about this now, but how do you feel about Youngstown State coming down there now and taking over? Like knocking down some houses for parking area? I have driven down there and it is like where a house used to be now it is a little parking lot.

Z: Yes. Now it is different. I go there every week, so I know the place now, but people would come there and they wouldn't know which one was Valley Street, or Carlton Street because the houses were all torn down.

M: Yes.

Z: One house on Audubon is standing. One house in the corner store there.

M: Yes.

Z: A few houses on Carlton Street.

M: Somebody told me once that now that some of the houses are gone on some of the streets, that they cannot believe how many houses were there before.

Z: You can't believe that many houses were there. Oh, yes. It is very hard. I can remember when all of the houses on Carlton Street and all of the people that lived there and the houses aren't there. It is hard to believe so many houses were there.

M: Did a lot of your family live right down there on the same street that you lived on? Like aunts, uncles, and cousins?

Z: We didn't have that many relatives. My Uncle Tony, my Uncle Jim, and mom. Then all of the close neighbors were good friends; Catherine Mascardine, the Worrelia family, Esprin Deluco. Mascardine's were across the street from us. Catherine Mascardine's mother-in-law was right across the street from us. That was the house that we said was the nicest house on the street.

M: Oh, really?

Z: Yes. When we were young we could remember that. You weren't allowed to go over in the yard and play...

M: Oh, no kidding? That is great. Did your family take on any borders? Do you remember taking any borders or if anybody did? People needing a place to stay or maybe relatives coming over from Italy?

Z: They tell us that our house...So, many people tell us, "When we came over from there we lived in this house." That is before we were born.

M: Oh, really?

Z: There were borders there. They got their start in our house. I don't know how they did and then they would move out. So many people say, "We lived down in your house." I said, "Gee, where did they live out in this house?" I mean it was an eight room house but they had borders there I guess. My mother raised her brothers. She had to be either fourteen or fifteen years old when their parents died.

M: Wow.

Z: I could always hear someone say, "That is where we got our start, down in your house." I hear people telling us that.

M: Your house was eight rooms but were most of them four rooms? Two down and two up? I heard that.

Z: Yes.

M: I heard that most of them were just two and two.

Z: Yes.

M: I also heard that you could add on and you didn't need a zoning permit.

Z: I guess I don't know. But like I say this was...It was really an eight room house but it was just partitioned with a door way. We used to walk in their kitchen. When my cousin Jimmy, who is the football coach for the Cleveland Browns now, was a baby, he would cry, my mother would just get up and go in there get the baby and bring him over our part and feed him.

M: Did you used to go and watch him play football, Jim?

Z: Oh, we watched Jimmy play at Rayen, we watched my brother Spike play at Rayen, we watched Dom play at Rayen, and we watched Muck play at Rayen, and then we went to the University and watched them play.

M: What was it like going to Rayen? Good games?

Z: Well, they used to be good games. We used to sit and watch them during rain, and snow. It didn't matter. Now I would never go out and sit in the rain or snow.

M: How about Youngstown State, were they good football games?

Z: Yes.

M: Jim Veccharelli?

Z: Jimmy Veccharelli was very good.

M: Did you have a garden in the Hollow? I meant to ask you that. Did your family have a garden down there?

Z: At one time we did have a garden then after awhile we planted grass all around.

M: Did everybody have gardens?

Z: Yes, they usually did.

M: I heard that there was a lot of wine-making down there too.

Z: I can remember when I was young there was a house, well away from us, the man was called Peaceful Sam. I can remember investigations breaking the wine and letting it run out into the streets. I guess that at that time they were boot-legging.

M: Oh, really?

Z: Yes.

M: They were selling it or something?

Z: I guess when we were real young I don't know.

M: Do you remember when Peaceful Sam got killed?

Z: I don't remember but I know that he got killed.

M: Do you remember why?

Z: No.

M: I heard that it was because he was selling...

Z: Boot-legging? That is probably why.

M: Yes.

Z: I know that that house was just torn down just a few years back but they used to say that in that house there was some kind of a tunnel. I don't know if there ever was or not.

M: At his house?

Z: At Peaceful Sam's house. Somewhere down there. I don't know whether it was true or not.

M: No, kidding?

Z: Yes.

M: To sell the boot-legging?

Z: Sure.

M: Did your father have a nickname?

Z: No.

M: I heard that nicknames were real popular down there.

Z: Oh, yes.

M: I heard a lot of good nicknames.

Z: I guess that they told you "Bogan," "Muck," "Duck," "Bird."

M: Somebody mentioned "Boopsy-Whoopsy" or something.

Z: Oh, really?

M: Donetta just mentioned it and it was funny. It was a two name. I forget it. Did your father belong to the Golden Eagles?

Z: No.

M: No?

Z: No.

M: Do you know anybody that did?

Z: My uncles and all of their friends used to play baseball for the Golden Eagles. Yap Ross, "Boopy-Loopy" played ball.

M: "Boopy-Loopy," that is the one.

Z: Okay, "Boopy-Loopy" was DeAngelo.

M: Yes.

Z: Then he had a brother "Dibby."

M: Do you remember some of the things that the Golden Eagles did? That your uncle belonged to. An organization to raise money for charity or anything like that?

Z: No, they just got together and had good times. They still do. They still have a Golden Eagles club.

M: Yes, I know that. I just wondered if they got together and did anything for charity.

Z: No.

M: Do you remember if there were any unaccepted people down in the Hollow as far as race, religion, or ethnic backgrounds? People moving in?

Z: I will tell you that we got along with everybody. Like today, there is so much prejudices, but when we were living down there, it didn't seem to have problems when we were young. Maybe as we got older some families caused problems. One lived in Coleprete's house. Some of the boys were in trouble. In fact one was in prison waiting on death row.

M: No, kidding. For what? Do you remember?

Z: He is the one who killed that policeman from Campbell.

M: Is it Lynch?

Z: He killed that policeman from Campbell.

M: Wow. I didn't know that.

Z: He was the one.

M: He was from Smokey Hollow?

Z: The boy?

M: Yes.

Z: Yes, that is why I said that really everyone got along. Towards the end, it was starting to get a little rough. Now they have knocked so many houses down that it is an ideal place to live.

M: Yes. I heard that it is probably safer now than it ever was because of Youngstown State.

Z: That is what I said.

M: Were you living down there when they built I-680, the by-pass? Right there by the Juvenile Justice Center?

Z: Yes.

M: Do you remember a lot of people moving out because of that?

Z: No.

M: Was that anywhere near where you lived?

Z: No.

M: Pretty far away?

Z: Yes.

M: Can you tell me why you moved out personally?

Z: Well, like I said there was an incident that happened down in the Hollow to an elderly person, we had my mom. We would go to work, and we had a sitter come and watch her everyday. It got to the point where we would come home we were worried but fine. It was starting to a little bad, so we decided that for her safety we better move out. We moved out in 1980.

M: Who was all still living in your house when you moved out?

Z: We came up here my brother, sister, mom, and I.

M: Wow.

Z: We just came up here. Then the house down there we rented to a family, that lived on Carlton Street. On

Carlton Street the house next door burned. Someone set a fire to it and it burned some of their house. They had no place to go. I asked them if they wanted to live in our house. They are living there today.

M: Oh, your house is still up?

Z: Yes.

M: That is nice. A lot of people's houses are down.

Z: Yes.

M: That is nice that your house is still there. Can you tell me some of the consensus of why maybe some of your friends moved out? Or the feelings that they may have had when they moved out? Let me ask you that, what was it like when you moved out? What kinds of feelings did you have?

Z: Very sad feelings. Like I said we still go down to the Hollow and visit people. We never say to the people that are there, "Oh, what are you doing down there." Because we know that they can't afford to move and they live there. It is still a nice place. The people that we visit are very nice. They can't afford to move out. The ones that could afford to move out don't want to move out. Why should they move out when they have their house fixed up so nice. This is on Carlton Street.

M: Getting back to some of your friends could you tell me why they may have moved out or some of the families that you knew?

Z: Well, let's see who moved out. Catherine Mascardine moved out. Annie Bernard had to move out because she was the guardian of her grandchildren and she had to move out.

M: Do you think that they may have moved out with the general consensus being that they wanted to better themselves?

Z: Probably.

M: You think?

Z: Probably. When they could afford it then they would go.

M: I heard that a lot of people moved out and then they started to send their kids to college, and then their family may have taken them in. I heard that a lot of people may have moved out also because a lot of men went to the Army.

Z: Yes.

M: And when they came back they saw what it was like.

Z: That it was changing.

M: Because a lot of people really never got...Do you remember going on vacations and getting out of the Hollow for a period of time?

Z: No, we would get to the lake maybe and spend some time but no.

M: So, you really never spend time?

Z: No, never spent time. We couldn't afford it at that time.

M: Do you keep in touch with your friends from the Hollow or people that you grew up with?

Z: Yes. I have a girlfriend who lives up on Glennwood Avenue and we keep in touch. We see Catherine Mascardine. I will tell you where we do meet funeral homes.

M: Oh, yes.

Z: When someone who used to live in the Hollow dies the whole Hollow is there. That is where we see all of the people, weddings and funerals.

M: Wow.

Z: You would be surprised to see that that whole Hollow goes. It is amazing how you just don't forget the people.

M: Do you attend the reunion that they have?

Z: The Smokey Hollow Reunion that they have?

M: Yes.

Z: Yes. I have attended everyone.

M: Oh, you have?

Z: Yes.

M: How many did they have?

Z: I think that there were six or seven.

M: Can you tell me what kinds of things go on there now?

Z: Everybody gabs. You will look around and say, "Oh, who is this?" Ask how all the different people are. You see who has changed and the ones who haven't changed. Mostly talking and eating.

M: Can you tell me where they have had the reunions? The places?

Z: The first one was at Mr. Anthony's. Then they had one up way up on Belmont Avenue somewhere. Then they had it up at Our Lady of Mount Carmel's Hall, which was very nice. That is where it should be. And the last one that they had was up at Wick Pollock Inn and it was very nice. I have to say that that was very nice.

M: Yes, that is a nice place. Do you remember some of the more prominent people of Youngstown that lived down there? Did you know Pat Ungaro when he lived down there?

Z: Yes, I knew Patsy. He used to have a collie dog. Every time you see him, he was with his collie dog. Freddie Quattro is a doctor. Bo Gan is a lawyer. Pat Sebastian was the superintendent of Liberty Schools at one time. Angelo Sebastian is a teacher. Jimmy DeAngelo is a policeman and detective.

M: Do you remember Dr. Pighese?

Z: Pighese used to live down on Meadow Street. He was superintendent of schools.

M: Right.

Z: There were a lot of people. I mean they really were a lot of good people that came from the Hollow. The Mussulo boys are doctors.

M: Oh, really?

Z: They were on Emerald Street.

M: That is something that is real unique about that place because there are so many successful people.

Z: A lot of successful people.

M: That is interesting.

Z: That is why I say, you see it was close knit and they worked hard and they made something out of themselves. They really did.

M: That is what you really want to see. This is a tough question for most people but what do you think your most memorable experiences were living down in the Hollow? Something that you can say really sticks out in your mind when you think of Smokey Hollow?

Z: In our house, I will say I can remember that we had shower baths in the basement. Two or three of the girls would go down and take a shower, talk, and talk upstairs my cousin's boyfriend could hear us talking. It was really just memories. When we were young, there was an out house on one of the properties. It wasn't used anymore but the out house was there and I can remember pling hide-and-go-seek.

M: Oh, really?

Z: Yes. We would run in that out house and hide in there. We had good times.

M: If you could change anything about the living down there would you change anything?

Z: If we could change it by going down there, all of us could build condos, and live down there as one big happy family. I bet a lot of people would go back there.

M: You are about the fourth person that said that who would go and buy land, and build a condominium.

Z: And we would have one big happy family again.

M: You are about the fourth or fifth person that said that they would just love to go back down there.

Z: Really.

M: When you go back down there now what kinds of feelings do you have?

Z: Well, really it doesn't bother me. You look and you see all of the houses gone and it is very hard to see that so many houses were there. If you go down Carlton Street, there is one house that has so many beautiful flowers, the guy keeps those flowers so nice. You see Marie MastroPietro. They keep their place nice. Jenny up there on the hill with no other houses around her now. I don't have any bad feelings. I like it the down there.

M: Do you think that a lot of your friends talk about it now and say, "Oh, it is runned down I don't like it."

Z: Well, like I said, people that are living there...Some of the people say, "Why are you still living there?" I have never said that to them really. It is just that...

M: You would rather remember it as the good.

Z: Yes.

M: Did you ever hear about any crime down there specifically in Smokey Hollow? Things that may have happened?

Z: Well, the crime that was there...

M: Maybe when you were younger?

Z: When we were younger I would say that I didn't hear much.

M: No?

Z: Towards the last 1970's, 1980's, I would have to say 1980's. When Nicki didn't have the grocery store anymore. There was an Arab that had the store, he was robbed. In fact he was killed in the store.

M: Wow.

Z: The boy that I said that lived over in Colaprete's house, he is in death row waiting. An incidence that caused us to move, an elderly lady was raped and we thought that it is was time for us to move. That was in 1983.

M: So, most of the things that went on that were negative in Smokey Hollow were towards that later?

Z: Yes, later.

M: That is the general consensus too.

Z: I can remember our doors were unlocked. It was hot out, you kept the door opened, you didn't have to be afraid. Now you bolt everything up. In fact when things happen lately that is what caused us to move. We put bars on our cellar windows because we were afraid of what happened, but like I said that was later on.

M: Do you remember that one key used to open up a bunch of houses? Was that true?

Z: Well, there was a skeleton key but I don't know I never tried to open all of the houses. May be a skeleton key would probably open them all.

M: I heard that you could have one key and that it would

open up twenty houses on the block way back.

Z: Probably.

M: Not recently.

Z: With the skeleton key.

M: Can you remember staying out real late? Did you used to stay out late and talk to people?

Z: Oh, we used to stand down on the corner and talk and talk.

M: I heard that people used to stay out there on their porch...

Z: Stay out and just talk on the porch. Our house was considered as a house by the side of the road. People used to congregate there. We used to sit there and talk and talk. Even when we were young, I guess my uncles friends would come and sit there and talk.

One incident when we were young, we went to a movie and we were coming home. It had to be dark, probably 8:00, 9:00. We were walking down Adams Street, some man came towards us, he opens his coat and we ran. A flasher.

M: A flasher?

Z: That is the only time that I remember when we were young.

M: Wow.

Z: We ran.

M: You don't hear too much of that back then.

Z: No.

M: Holy cow. Do you think that there is anything you can add that I may have left out that is important or maybe some experiences? How about the Snow of 1950? Do you remember that?

Z: Oh, that was a great time. That snow was so high that we all pitched in and we shoveled the street. We had a great time. Everyone on Adams Street, Watt Street and Carlton Street cleaned the whole place out. It was nice. Now you could get over to Nicky's store. We really shoveled ourselves out.

M: I heard that down there that Youngstown City didn't even have to come down because everybody was shoveling

each others drives and helping one another out.

Z: Yes, that is what I say helpful. Everybody worked together. I will tell you next door to us when the Goldner's moved out a black family moved in. They are really a nice family and they are great. They just pitch in and help too. They are really nice. In fact they are still there. Very nice.

M: So, if you were to like sum up life experiences down there would it be positive?

Z: Oh yes, up until I would say the last few years that were bad, but yes it was a great place.

M: I heard that it was. I heard that it was a fantastic place to live.

Z: I can remember Freddie, when his kids were small, he would come into town. He would take his children and wife down the Hollow and say, "This is the best place."

M: Freddie Quattro?

Z: Yes, Freddie. And now when he comes back, he goes down the Hollow. He can't get over how there is nothing there. His house was torn down where he was raised. When you come down it is hard to believe.

M: I went to the University for how long and I am still going and I have probably driven down through those streets maybe twice and the only reason is because I am doing this just to get an idea of where... I never go down there. As far as I go is maybe to play intramural at Harrison Field or go down to the MVR other than that and may be try to sneak up through I-680 down on Emerald Street.

Z: Yes, Emerald Street and go up.

M: Other than that I never knew that it went as far as where the JJC is now. I never knew that it went that far. You just don't hear about it anymore.

Z: That was really a great place.

M: Okay, thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW