

NAME OF PROJECT: *Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of WWII*

DATE OF INTERVIEW: August 9, 2011

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: North Bay, ON

NAME OF INTERVIEWEE: Anthony De Marco

NAME OF INTERVIEWER: Travis Tomchuk

NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER: Krystle Copeland

TRANSCRIBED BY: Louanne Aspillaga

DATE TRANSCRIBED: November 2011

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ABSTRACT

Anthony De Marco was born on August 16, 1920 in Reggio, Calabria, Italy and is the eldest of three children born to Antonia (née Scappatura) De Marco and Carmine De Marco. Anthony's dad first arrived in Canada around 1902-03, following his brothers, who came in search of a better life. Carmine was naturalized in 1911, but returned home briefly to fight in the First World War. Back home, Carmine met and married Antonia in 1919 before returning to North Bay. In 1922, Anthony and his mother immigrated to Canada and the family was reunited.

In his interview, Anthony talks about growing up in a multi-ethnic neighbourhood, playing sports, and attending school in North Bay. He also speaks of his parents' business, the De Marco's Confectionary, which is still in operation today. Anthony's dad, Carmine De Marco, and two uncles, Vincenzo and Frank Scappatura, were all interned at Camp Petawawa. Anthony explains that his father was able to get out of Petawawa because of the efforts of their friend and neighbour, Bishop Dignan. He also says that neither his dad nor uncles ever talked about their experiences in the camp. Anthony believes that the internment really bothered his dad, especially having fought for the Allies in the previous war. At the same time that Carmine De Marco was interned, he had several nephews serving in the Canadian forces.

INTERVIEW

ADM: Anthony De Marco, interviewee

TT: Travis Tomchuk, interviewer

KC: Krystle Copeland, videographer

Other people present in the interview:

JJ: Judy Jessen, interviewee's daughter

John: [relationship to interviewee, unknown]

[Title screen]

[Fades in at 0:00:12.0]

TT: Uh this is Travis Tomchuk um, we're in North Bay, it's Tuesday, August the ninth, 2011 and I'm interviewing Mr. ... just wanna say your name?

ADM: Anthony De Marco.

TT: Um, can you tell us when you were born?

ADM: I was born on August 16, 1920.

TT: And where were you born?

ADM: I was actually born in Italy. But my dad was a Canadian long before I was born. What happened was that in um, he came about 1902-1903. He followed his brothers over here and

um...I um...I uh...I, I ended up at--My father was a citizen in 1907. Canadian citizen [Unclear] 13 years before I was born. And he came as a teenager he was um, actually in uh Kitchener for a year, and then came North Bay, followed his brothers up here.

TT: [Pause] And whereabouts in Italy were you born?

ADM: I was born in um, Reggio, near Reggio, Calabria. A very small town in the hills. It's probably about um...oh about 30 kilometers from Reggio, Calabria. It's in um [Points off] foot hills of the mountain there.

TT: ...And with regards to um, your, your uncles and their travels to Canada, what um, why did they come to Canada?

ADM: Well, my um, in those days it was a very small town and uh, and uh there was not much of a future for anybody so they came to Canada to, you know, to the New World and start a, a new life. And one by one they, pretty all of them came over here. And my uncle's family was a big, big family and uh [Pause] My dad worked in um Kitchener for a year and then he come up here and worked with the railroad. And my uncle originally came to Niagara Falls about 1899-1900 and ah, he was a twin, there were brothers, twins and they worked Niagara Falls and they worked on the dam there. And uh, third brother actually was, he actually got caught in the crusher when they were building the dam. He's still in that dam to this day. Down he went and that was uh--so he ended up, he came to Sturgeon Falls up here, 20 miles from here, to work on the dam there. And all the people in this area, a lot of Italian people here worked on the railroad and on the dams and had--he said, there's nowhere here to shop for Italian goods, so he decided to start a store in North Bay. So that's how the De Marcos ended up up here because uh he started a store downtown. And then as his family--all the kids born here, except uh the baby, and he um, actually the mother was very sick. And the doctor said, "She's not go--

she's not gonna make it through the winter." So he took the whole family back to Italy and the youngest one was born in Italy. And my dad looked after the store here for him. He left uh the railroad, he looked after the store for, for my uh uncle. So it was probably--and he stayed in Italy for several years, they didn't come back right away.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: So my dad ended up running the store and a second brother how--with, with him, so they--second brother had lost a leg on the CPR, and he helped in the store. So, between my dad and him they ran the store for about 6-7 years until my uncle come back. So that's how my dad ended up here. And then, he bought a piece of property downtown, sold it and, and bought where we are out [?] today. And we kept expanding, we bought about six or seven pieces of property where we are. And we're street to street where we are. [Whispers] Haaaaaaaaa--

TT: --And what was your father's name?

ADM: Carmine.

TT: [Whispers] Carmine.

ADM: All the, all the first borns were Anthony in the, in the families, yeah. And my oth--the twin of my uncle ended up in Windsor, he started a business there eventually.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm. And what was his name?

ADM: He was um, actually (Steves he is) [?]

TT: Okay.

ADM: Ya. Had a big, big family too. Lot of De Marcos.

[0:05:03.4]

TT: Hmmm mmm.

ADM: The youngest one that I was telling you about, that they went back to Italy. He became a professor at Windsor.

TT: Okay.

ADM: He uh ended up Head of Assumption and became the Windsor University after and he uh, he still lives there to this day. He lives--he's uh nine months younger than I am.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: And he lives--

TT: --His name would be?

ADM: Pardon?

TT: His name?

ADM: His name is Frank.

TT: Frank.

ADM: Yeah.

TT: Okay. [Pause] Uh [Pause] And with regards to the family store, um, what, what is the name of the, of the store?

ADM: Well, it was De Marco's Confectionary, the store that my dad and mother started. Yeah on uh, on Algonquin, right across from the church there, cathedral.

TT: Okay.

ADM: [Nods] Hmmm mmm.

TT: And did you--you--I--if I remember correctly, you had said that the store hadn't changed locations o--over time, or, or am I mistaken?

ADM: Not--we were next door for a year in a smaller store and we end--ended up--my dad and mother had a chance to buy the property next door. It was a house.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: A big house. So he knocked out the front of the house and the house was about [makes hand gesture] three or four feet up above the street and knocked out the floor and that's why we have a high, high ceiling in the store. So that's why it became uh De Marco's Confectionary. It's been there since 1929 really. We moved into--we were next door in 1928 for a year.

TT: And what other property around uh North Bay did your, your parents own?

ADM: Well eventually we bought up different pieces of property. We developed, we developed a partial land. We had 10 acres in Ferris, we developed it. And we sold uh lots for homes. And then we have--we still own a piece of property, we kept it as a pension plan. And we just sold part of it last year. We still own where there's a pizza shop down--we still own that property. And different pieces of property in the area, we...we just sold uh, oh on different streets we own different pieces of property and sold them. We just sold a place out on 17 [Points to his rear] a few years ago, Highway, we own a big chunk of property out there. And one near Dupont, we just sold that. And this last piece in Ferris, we just sold about two years ago, a year and a half ago.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: So we kind of got into bu--into the property business you know. As well as the store. My cousin, the one that I was telling you that had the grocery store downtown.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: His son, after he come out of the army, he ended up in Toronto, and he became a builder, he was a builder. He has a--as a youngster, he liked woodwork. He bui--built--they built one home out of town and they end up buying a big piece of property. And he developed all kinds of property in Toronto and we invested with him.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: So he--we did very well--that's the reason why I have this place.

TT: Okay.

ADM: One of the reason. From the money that we made down south there.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: With the last piece property we sold, was in um, uh, west of Toronto, and uh, there's lots--he built all kinds--he has uh a beautiful building on uh, Warden, near No. 7. It's uh the end, it's uh an office building and they have center pieces like uh Eaton Centre with all glass, glass elevator. And uh he's under--he, he's, he's, he became a multi-billionaire, yeah. So we invested with him and a lot of his properties and...We had uh...Oakville was the last piece that we sold, I remember, with him. So we always took like 10 or 20 % you know [Unclear] an investment. Whenever, so [Unclear] buy a piece of property and have several people invest in it, you know. We did that.

TT: And what uh, what was the name of your cousin who had the grocery store?

ADM: Vince.

TT: Vince.

ADM: V.V. De Marco. Yeah.

TT: And the name of his son?

ADM: Pardon?

TT: The name of his son?

ADM: Oh he had, he had a big family. [Chuckles]

TT: Oh this--

ADM: --Nine children.

TT: Okay.

ADM: Yeah they didn't really take part in the, in the building business that much.

TT: Okay.

ADM: The oldest uh, the oldest one is a doctor. And the oldest boy is a doctor and the oldest girl are doctors. Yeah, they're in, they're in Toronto area. Yeah.

TT: Um, what can you tell me about your mother? Uh her name, uh when and where she was born?

ADM: My mother?

TT: Yeah.

[0:10:00.7]

ADM: Yeah, they were born in a small town, Palagany. And uh, that's uh the one place I was telling you about, about 30...miles from uh Reggio, Calabria. And uh, she was born in um, her family were pretty well-to-do over there. They, they owned a big track of land outside of the city, outside of the little wee village. One of those old fashioned villages with cobbled streets and you couldn't drive in the [Chuckles]. You talked across the street to your neighbour, he was about twent--15 feet away from you. He's uh, yeah and um [Pause] they developed uh, they, they uh, the, they they had uh--My grandmother was well educated, she was uh educated by a monsignor. She was uh, like uh, I think, I don't think she had any people left. And uh a monsignor took her when she was small--and she was well, well educated. She had her own silk room. And uh she had a country--they lived like on--out in the country. They had an olive, an olive farm, they had all--any kind of fruit trees you can think of. And they were the, the best well off people in the whole area. They're well--very well off. And uh they came to her for everything because in that little town, she--she--whether it was law or weather, or whatever you wanna talk about, they came to my grandmother. Yeah she was--and uh they did very well. They had a beautiful place in the country and during the war they fed half the people in the town. They had their own animals, their own um, oh every kind of fruit you can think of. They made their own olive oil. And like I say she had her own uh silk room. She made silk yeah. Had the silk worms and--but it was in the country. And you can walk, maybe from, maybe a mile or so to get to the village.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: But they were well to do but then, there was nothing there for young people so as, as the years went by, they all came to America.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: Their family. They came to New York first. Part of their family came to New York first. Then they...the De Marco family came here and then the brother-in-law from New York followed them here. And he ended up having a hotel in North Bay.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: Scappatura is a family.

TT: Hmmm. And where was the hotel located?

ADM: [Leans forward to hear].

TT: Whereabouts was the hotel located?

ADM: Oh right next to the where my uncle had his grocery store, right where the station is downtown. He--the station was just across the street.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And the hotel was on the corner. And the hotel [Says while making hand gesture] ran over all the stores. There's bag--bunch of stores. And one of them was the grocery store that my uncle had. So they're next door to each other. [Noise in the background]

TT: And what was your mother's name?

ADM: Scappatura.

TT: Scappatura.

ADM: Yeah. She was Scappatura, yeah.

TT: And, and her first name?

ADM: Oh it was Antonia.

TT: And um...did she--what, what age was she when--did she--she was born in Italy?

ADM: Oh yes. She um came after the war because um, my dad actually when uh, when the war was over came back to his village and they married and then in 1919. And then I was born in 1920. And he came back here first and then she brought me back later when I was about a year and a half, not quite two years old. She bought me over with her. I wouldn't have known if [Says while laughing] didn't tell me so...Actually I pretty much uh most of my life right here, I'll be 91 in a couple of weeks, so. But um, North Bay has been my life, yeah. [Chuckles]

TT: So um, North Bay, when you were growing up, was there um, like an Italian neighbourhood, a specifically Italian--

ADM: --Yes, there was yeah. From the railroad people--the east end was known as the Italian area. And the Front Street area was uh quite a bit of Italian people on the Front Street area. So they, kind of were in uh a neighbourhood you know, like almost their own neighbourhood. The railroad, they own--our railroad was in the east end. So they bought a lot of homes at that end to be close to their work. Yeah.

TT: Hmmm. And um, what can you tell me about the neighbourhood. Um, was, was there people living in that neighbourhood that weren't Italian or was it strictly Italian?

ADM: Well, we were a few blocks away from Brunge [?] Street where there was an Italian area. But where we were, there weren't very many of Italian people.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: We were downtown area, we were close to downtown. And that, that area is mostly English, Irish, and everything, but not too many Italian on where we were, where our store was.

[0:15:12.0]

TT: Okay.

ADM: My uncle, he had, his grocery store, he, he--like we're more of a confectionary and produce, we had a market outside and we had a sort of um, sort of um business. [Unclear] And um, he had a lot of uh, he, uh, he sold a lot of bulkkkk food, like cases of uh, of a spaghetti and things like that. But we got into the confectionary end and we were, it became a teenage hangout after a while with the sort of [Unclear] and that.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: So we--all the high school kids hung out on our place. Yeah they came by the hundreds. Where the church is, on a Saturday, a Friday night, once school is out, that whole street is full of kids. They sit around the fountain, there's a fountain across the street. Church steps. Policemen would chase them off the sidewalk. The sidewalk was jammed, the store was full. You almost

had to have a watchdog in the store. [Laughs] It was crazy, yeah. We grew up that way with the, with all the kids. Frank and I took part in a lot of sports so we got to know a lot of people. And a lot of people in our area became uh friends, like...like Dr. McCool [?], dad was across the street, he became a close family friend. And dur--during the war, he, he stayed with us, he didn't, he didn't, you know, stayed a close friend.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: Yeah.

TT: Um, so the, the high schoolers that would have um come to the you know the family store, would they have been mostly Italian or were they mixed? Like were there English and Irish, was it everybody?--

ADM: --Oh ju--all those schools were a little mixture. Yeah the whole yeah--Italians were probably a small percentage of the high school.

TT: Okay.

ADM: They uh, boys' college hadn't been built yet so the, the Collegiate was a big school for high school for all the kids.

TT: Hmmm. So there was only one high school in North Bay at the time?

ADM: Yeah, it was the North Bay Collegiate, yeah.

TT: Yeah.

ADM: None, no, the boys' college was built in around in early 30s.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: Built after that yeah.

TT: Okay. So, um, growing up in the east end, um, what other--you mentioned that there was a church in the neighbourhood, was that an Italian church?

ADM: Yes, we uh...Italian church was about four or five blocks away from us. We belonged to the Italian church, but my mother--acro--across the street was a cathedral. So she went to church every morning - eight o'clock in the morning. So we got to be real good friends with the bishop there. The bishop we got to know our family real good. In fact, the bishop exchanged gifts with my family at Christmas.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Yeah, got to be--and we used to invite them over once in a while for dinner. And they used to come, used to come to the house for dinner. The bishop helped us during the war a lot.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: With the--get my dad home before the war was over.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: Had a lot to do with bringing my dad back.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm. And what was the bishop's name?

ADM: The bishop was Dignin. Bishop Dignin.

TT: Dignin? D--how would you spell that?

ADM: I'm pretty sure it's D-I-G...Dignin...N-I-N.

TT: Al--

ADM: --He was from London, Ontario.

TT: Alright [Pause] Um, so uh before we uh discuss um the war, the Second World War, I want to know about um your schooling. Where did you go to school before--

ADM: --I went to, I went to St. Mary's School.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: And then the Collegiate. But what happened after the second year I went into Special Commercial, there was um, a scare around, around the holidays, Christmas holidays. And there was um, I'm trying to think of what it was, and they closed down the school for a couple of weeks, and I started working in the store and never left.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: I stayed with the s--with--the store got busy and 'cause my mother, it was hard for my mother, eh. She did it--worked from...seven o'clock in the morning 'til midnight, the store was open all day. All...yeah. So, I, I, ended up--in those days, each family saved so one could go maybe to university. My sister was the one that went to university.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Went to uh Toronto. [Unclear]

TT: [Pause] So what age then were you when you started working at uh the family--

ADM: --Oh boy, I was young. I was about, I'd say about 14-15. Yeah. I worked part time um for the, one of the um, I'd say at Eaton's groceteria downtown, and it was um [Pause] Actually I worked when I was going to school on the weekends. And, and after four and then, and then, when during the holidays I'd work all summer. And then different times I'm--during the war, I went out and did work at--there was, there was uh three four, you know, that, that was uh needed for the war you know.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

[0:20:29.2]

ADM: Yeah, I left the store but I'd, I'd, I'd be there in between and weekends and that. But I did um...I worked outside the store quite a bit off and on during the war.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm. And what kind of uh, like specifically, what kind of jobs would you have done outside of the store?

ADM: Well, I re-treaded tires for a company and um, I wor--I worked for Craig Bit [?], we made the uh noses for uh, for anti-tank shells.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And I worked there for a while during, during the war. I had uh, I got hurt playing hockey. Uh I had a cist in the back and ah, they, they wouldn't take me so I had uh--doctors wouldn't, wouldn't take me into the--couldn't get into the Air Force [Unclear] you know.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. Hmmm.

ADM: So I ended up doing work and for several years I worked out of the store.

TT: [Pause] Um, what else. Just to back up a bit, um with regards to your siblings, can you tell me their names? Connie and Frank were my brother and sisters.

TT: Okay.

ADM: Just the three of us, yeah.

TT: And you were the oldest?

ADM: I'm the oldest yeah. And the only one left. [Laughs]

TT: Hmmm. Um, besides um, playing hockey, where there other activities you were involved in for recreation?

ADM: Yeah, I played ball in City League for quite a few years.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: Um I remember Parliament was Jack Caron [?] at that time. And uh he had a bottling plant here, Pepsi Cola. And um, he--we--a friend of mine we started uh--we, we grounded together a bunch of kids. Started and--started a team up and they even--eventually he won the uh Ontario championship, you know.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: But he was a member for quite a few years and he was actually uh, he had two portfolios with the government. He died on the train home coming home, yeah believe it or not. But he was uh, he was a [Says while making hand gesture] huge man.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: But he wouldn't ha--he was uh--you wouldn't get a nicer man. Yeah. And his wife was just as nice as he was, yeah. Real good couple. But I played ball for him for quite a few years, yeah. And I played basketball for two years when you didn't have to be six foot nine. [Smiles] Uh, the highest probably one or two people on the team were six footers.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: The rest were, were all average, eh. Six, eight, nine, ten. So I played two years basketball but I found that between basketball and hockey, I'd rather play hockey. So I stuck--I kind of gave up the basketball and went to hockey.

TT: So how many years did you play hockey for?

ADM: Oh quite a few years, that's where I got this nose. It's supposed to be up there [Holds his nose up higher]

TT: Okay.

ADM: Hockey secret re--re-- [Chuckles]

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Rearranged it. So I played hockey 'til I was in [Unclear] about 30. Then I got married and the children come along and that was the end of hockey. [Laughs]

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. Um—

ADM: --I played uh--we had a, we had uh--People [?] Andrew was our owner of our hockey team. He played pro hockey in the States for years.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: He played for Black Hawks for a while. St. Louis, a lot of years in St. Louis. And...

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: So we, we, we had, I, I, I played a lot of sports. I played golf, I got the golf disease.

[Chuckles] Joined a golf club when I was older and...love to play. [Pause] I gave it up, I got that vertigo so that was the end of the golf. A few years ago, yeah.

TT: Um and then how about um, while growing up, what uh kind of--outside of sports, what other kinds activities that you were involved in for fun?

ADM: Well I got involved with the church quite a bit. I used uh, as a teenager, I did a lot of uh ushering and I became the President of the C.Y.O. at uh, at the church. And we had our own club. And we used to meet every Friday. We, we used to bring a (hot coal) [?] there and dance all night, you know. So became very active in church. Helped in all the spaghetti dinners and anything that had to do with the church. We were very active.

[0:25:13.2]

TT: And what does C.Y.O. stand for?

ADM: It's a youth, youth club.

TT: Okay.

ADM: Yeah.

TT: And the events that uh, like spaghetti dinners, was that uh just social--

ADM: --Yeah--

TT: --or was it fundraising or--?

ADM: Yeah fundraising. They used to have uh, different things at the church for that and...

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And eventually during after the war, we didn't have a parish priest there so I ended up going across the street to the ca--cathedral, Paul Cathedral, and I got, I got uh...into the men's club there. And I got active there and I did uh quite a bit uh--about 20 years that I visited the sick at the hospital. I bought Communion to the hospital.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: I was uh, like the, they uh...have uh three days a week that they bringing--visit the sick and they bring Communion to the sick people. So I did that for about 20 years, once a week I'd go, we'd take turns you know.

TT: Hmmm mmm.

ADM: So [Stutters, unclear] I was, I was--pr--pretty active life...Pretty busy.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: Now, now at the cathedral, we--the men's club became very active when we--we put on--we um raffle (all the house down in calendar) [?] on the golf course. Made--we were redoing the church, we had to rebuilt the church. Had us--they had a lot--run into millions.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And so we raised money, helped raise money for the church. And so, we did a lot of work with--we, we had spaghetti dinners there and um...pancake dinners and everything to raise money.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: To, to fix the church yeah. 'Cause it needed a lot of work.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: They're still [Says while laughing] working on it! Still need work!

TT: Um, and then how about um, you know outdoor activities like I suspect living in a place like North Bay there must be--

ADM: --Oh yeah, the--my mother had a beautiful garden. Right beside the house, it's still there to this today [Points]. It's behind the pizza shop on Algonquin right in the middle of North Bay. But the garden's still there. She had...the beans [Says while raising hand] you know the pole beans, the, the seeds are still there from God knows whe--they came from Italy and ah, when, when my uh, my uh gran--uncles and aunt came--and to this day the same seeds are being used in that garden.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And uh, the garden has a little bit of everything in it. But she looked aft--and she loved flowers so the whole place was full of flowers back there. And uh, so she planted everything. She had tomatoes and, and uh, uh...uh the pole beans were the biggest part of the garden but she had everything else, zucchinis, and uh, and what she didn't--ah I cou--couldn't--everything but potatoes! [Chuckles] We had our own raspberries. [Unclear] And that garden is still there to this day.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: People--after we rented the house, the fellow that took over the house. I, I was active with him for awhile, this is the first year that I didn't help in the garden, but I used to still plant the beans eh, until, until this year. But we're still eating out of the, out of the garden.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Right to his day, yeah. But uh, my mother was very, very--she loved the garden, yeah.

TT: And why did she not grow potatoes? Is there a rea--

ADM: --I don't--because of uh, the space that we had. She wanted to make the most use out of her space.

TT: Hmmm mmm.

ADM: And then potatoes take a lot of room and...but, but's the only thing that she didn't have in the garden. [Chuckles]

TT: So what else can you tell me about your mother, with regards to what kind of person she was?

ADM: She was, she was um...well educated and she was um...very loving person. Type--very family-oriented, more than my dad. My dad was old-fashioned type, you know. And uh, she uh, she really good, years maybe she used to do a lot of, of needle work, eh. Fancy, fancy work and uh, believe it or not, I don't know how many years after...she stopped doing it, she started up again, and she still knew all the patterns by heart. She can make all these bedspreads and the girls have some of them there. Eh Judy?

[0:30:03.2]

JJ: [In the background] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: Still have some them. And she knitted even the chairs, she knitted the covers for the chairs and everything. And she did it all, all up here. Didn't have any pattern. She knew all those patterns from when she was uh, a young girl. Can you imagine? [Chuckles]

JJ: Talk about your mother.

ADM: Yeah.

JJ: Your mother had a silk room. [Background conversation, unclear]

ADM: Pardon? [Background conversation, unclear]

TT: Um, and, you, you mentioned that your father was a bit more old-fashioned.

ADM: He was a sort of old-fashioned type of guy, yeah. He expected that you did everything right. [Stutters, unclear] Expect you to do the right thing. And uh, uh, that's it. It's just his way-- that's the way it was.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: Yeah.

TT: Was he a talkative person or--

ADM: --Not that much. No, no, no. Never talked about his days in the army. And never talked about...you know the years that he fought with, with the Allies. He never, never hardly ever mentioned anything about that. He lost a brother, too, a younger brother in the First World War.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: He was a university graduate and he was a head of a company. He got wiped out in the mountains. Fighting Germany.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: And uh, he be--he be--he actually made the history book, the Italian history book. He was uh, as a hero. They named a piazza in a small town after him. That's the only thing left in that little town where they were born, was that they named the, this little piazza where the, where the fountain is where they go down for the water. They named it after him.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Yeah, after the war.

TT: And what was his name?

ADM: His name was uh Anth--Anthony too, there were uh---Antonio, ah. I actually made uh a painting of him and uh. [Calls out to someone in the background] Where's that painting today? At your place? Yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Yeah it's uh, an oil painting of him. Yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: But he was just--

JJ: --The farm-- [Pause] During the war the farm fed half of the town too.

ADM: The what?

JJ: The farm. The farm, he fed ev--starving people in their farm in Italy.

ADM: [Points to his ear] Not hearing you.

JJ: Their farm in Italy. Their farm fed half of the people. You can talk about that--

ADM: --Oh yes! During the war, that's the Scappatura farm, not the De Marco farm, no.

JJ: It was mother's side.

ADM: Yeah, it was Scappatura farm. They fed, fed most of the people, yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. And uh how long did your father serve with the Italian armed forces?

ADM: He went there uh [Exhales] in the early part of the war and he was there--he fought with the cavalry. He was in the cavalry. Yeah, he fought with the Allies, yeah.

TT: Okay. So did he--was he living in Canada and he returned to Italy to—

ADM: --Yeah he wa--he lived in--he was living in Canada and when the war came along he went back...yeah to fight. And that's where he stayed and married my mother.

TT: Right.

ADM: Yeah.

TT: Okay. Um [Pause] Now with...just to move forward a bit um, you--how did you meet uh your wife?

ADM: Oh Joan! We belonged to the same church club. We used to dance together every Friday night and um, she um, she came when she was about nine years old. And uh, and um we used to go eve--every Friday night--She actually...worked wi--at (Don's and Calendar) [?], you know. And she got a job down there, she worked there in the summers when she didn't go to school.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: And uh she got to know the [Unclear], the father of the, of the, of the uh quintuplets you know.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: Yeah, she worked for him for awhile, Calendar.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: But uh, we met, we met at the church and, and uh we always liked each other. And we finally, after I got through with all my sports, I finally got married. [Laughs]

TT: And when, when did you get married?

ADM: 1931, 1931, yeah.

JJ: When did you get married? Married.

ADM: Yeah, 1931.

JJ: Fifty. '51.

ADM: Pardon? No, no--pardon me, yeah. [Laughs] That's a mistake, yeah. [Smiles]

TT: [Laughs softly]

ADM: Nineteen, yeah, nineteen fifty--

JJ: --One.

ADM: Fifty one.

TT: [Says faintly] Okay.

ADM: We were--I, I meant to say I was 31 years old.

TT: [Says faintly] Okay. Um and how many--you had children, how many children did you have?

ADM: Four. Three girls and boy. Judy, Chris, Chris--Lisa, and my son is Carmen.

TT: Okay. [Pause] Um, now with regards to um, the family home, um, was that uh, was that attached to the store or was it a separate—

ADM: --Yeah we were right behind the store. It was uh, kind of uh, almost li--it's an old, old place. And uh in 1950, we knocked it down and rebuilt it into more of a modern home. 'Cause it was very, very small and you know just uh...and attached to the, to the--it was part of the old house. Actually that we made the store out of, out of the old house, eh.

[0:35:35.4]

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: So they...they just made do for awhile until they were able to... expand.

TT: Okay. So the, the original, um living quarters at the back of the store like ho--would it--can you give us a sense of like how, how big the space was? How many rooms?--

ADM: --It was small.

TT: Yeah.

ADM: [Says while making hand gesture] Had a, a living room and a kitchen behind it and, and the upstairs had three rooms.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: That's all. Small.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. And then when you um, when that was torn down, you built a larger um addition?

ADM: Yeah, 195--we, we ex--expanded it yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Yeah. And then up, was it more rooms um--

ADM: --Pardon?

TT: Can you give us a sense of uh, how much bigger the, the new addition was?

ADM: Well, actually. We used to have a place she used to wash downstairs. And we built um an extension...to the ki--we built a kitchen and then an extension to that. And then we added uh,

uh like uh a family room, and then a, a large dinin--a large living room. It was actually like a double living room.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And then we had uh, the upstairs, we had three--we built two more bedrooms upstairs. So we extended it out quite piece [?] and we never had a basement there and we built a basement where the...So we went--we built back quite a piece.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Nineteen-fifty-four we built an apartment behind the store, on the other street and rented it out. We have 11 units, we still have them. Yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. [Pause] And when you were growing up how you know--what was it like to be Italian in North Bay? Was uh, did you experience any discrimination from non-Italians?

ADM: Um, I, I, uh, I guess between making a lot of friends in the store and that I ne--never had any problems, you know. Um, I can't remember any, anybody [Pause] there was uh people of course that uh, different people of course that...you know that discriminated in different ways but, I only ra--na--ga--ba--ba--uh, uh more or less once. And even during the war, nobody ever--because we had so many friends and we made so many--knew so many people, I guess uh, whether they didn't, didn't feel like ah--Nobody, nobody ever said a word about, about the nationality or anything.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: Nobody ever mentioned it. Even though my, my dad was interned, because they knew, they knew better.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: They realized you know. Like people that our friends of ours, or close friends, they, they stayed that way you know. [Unclear] the nationality didn't seem to make any difference.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: In fact, uh the bishop across the street, my uh, my parents used to, used to exchange presents at Christmas--

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm--

ADM: --and we didn't even belong to that church.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Just became friends 'cause my mother went to church there every morning.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Became friends with the bishop. So we didn't--I didn't--like I say all those years my dad, we--well he was in--interned maybe for I don't know if it was a year and a half or two years before he came back. But never a word was said to me. Never--nobody ever said anything about the nationality or anything.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm. So um...where--when your father was taken into custody, um, where, where, where were you?

ADM: Pardon?

TT: When your father was arrested by the police--

ADM: --Oh yeah, we--my mother and I stayed with the store.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: It was [Raises both hands up] no--there was no business. It's just you were lucky if you, if you sold 20 dollars worth of goods a day.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Because uh, and a l--ha, uh people, um, ha, you know we just didn't have anybody coming to the store, hardly. So, it's a good thing in those days that family made 10 dollars, they put one dollar away. And they were able to survive, you know. 'Cause it was pretty rough.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. And how long--ah, at what point did business start to um, get back to normal or pick up again?—

ADM: --Well after my dad came back and then a--after the war kind of got to be a big teenager place. That's when all the kids came.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

[0:40:16.7]

ADM: And uh, we had uh like a sort of fountain, we used to uh make milk shakes and everything else and all the kids came there...for chocolate bars or whatever. Chips and chocolate bars and everything else. So it got to be, and got--and my brother and I been in sports, brought all the teenagers. A lot of them came to the store, yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: So it built up pretty fast after that yeah.

TT: Okay. Um [Pause] do you know the day when your father was uh picked up by police?

ADM: Hmmm, it wasn't too long after the war--uh, ah, after Italy joined the war. I don't know the exact date.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: ...But um...it was a big shock because uh you know, we couldn't believe it happened...And that he never really--it really bothered him, even when he come back it affected him you know. Like he uh, he felt it you know. He couldn't believe either that it happened to him, you know. Yeah. Actually...it was really...the bishop...his name was Bishop Dignin and uh there was a lawyer, and uh...was a friend. He just lived a blo--block away from this lawyer. And uh...the bishop and him, got together and, and they worked hard to get my dad back home. So they--between them and the friends like Dr. McCool, and uh, and uh different people. And the Police Chief was a friend of our family's.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: He was um, a neighbour of my uncle. Oh he lived about three blocks from us and they were very, very good friends. And he spoke for us, the Chief. Ab--talked about, about my dad. So that's how they got him out between the, between the bishop and uh, and the different people speaking up for him.

TT: Hmmm mmm. And what was the lawyer's name?

ADM: Um...I have it right here. [Laughs and reaches for paper in his back pocket. Paper makes noise] Flannery.

TT: Flandery.

ADM: Bishop Flannery. And the Chief was, his name was Clarke [sp?]. Clarke [sp?] was the name of the policeman yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: So they, they worked together and they got my dad home. But I, I can't really remember it was a year and a half or whatever it was, two years that he was in the camp, you know.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Took quite awhile to get him home.

TT: Now, the lawyer, was he someone that your father knew--how, like how--did your father know him or? I'm just kinda wondering, how, how did the lawyer get involved?

ADM: Oh, the lawyer was a good friend of the bishop.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And he, he was uh, uh he was one of our--his family shopped at our store. They're only about a block and a half from the church and from the store, the Flannerys. In fact, the daughter still lives in the same house today.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: It's very--just about a block and half from my place.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm. [Pause] And...were you present when your father was taken into custody?

ADM: I remember right--yeah, I was yeah, the family was there and yeah. He came yeah...Yeah...Oh, it was pretty sudden.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. And they came--did they come to the store?

ADM: Yeah.

TT: Yeah. And was, was the store actually open at that time?

ADM: Yeah, it was yeah. Hmmm mmmm.

TT: So what can you tell me about uh, about that day?

ADM: Well I wa--I was just a teenager and uh. It's just that we--he kinda left us uh we were--we couldn't believe it you know. Yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Especially uh, you know that uh my dad had fought with the allies in the First World War, lo--lost his youngest brother fighting against Germany. And my cousins had uh, the one that I was telling you about that came North Bay originally.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: Had two boys in the army, two in the Air Force and then Joe got killed. And he was down in the Atlantic during the war. They lost him during the war. Had a cousin in Windsor, who was a doctor, and he was a doctor in the army. Even, even though at that, we found it hard that they'd ever come and take my dad, you know, yeah. But what I think they did, they picked up prominent--prominent business people in the town like my uncle. And um they picked up people that were doing well ah used them as an example to hold--keep everybody else...down. And when they'd come home, they, they told him, "Look...you won't be able uh make an a--you won't be able to be interviewed or anything. It's part of the--we let you come home but you won't be able uh make a statement about what, about what goes on."

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

[0:45:38.2]

ADM: So he wasn't able to say anything when he came home.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmm. And did he have to sign something uh to promise that he would keep quiet about--

ADM: --Well that was part of the, the thing that you come t--to come home that they wouldn't be able to--they said, "Well you can come home but you don't make any statements. So he wasn't able to make any statements.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmm. [Pause] Um [Pause] When, when your father was arrested, uh, was uh, was it RCMP or was it local police? Was there whether--

ADM: --I think, I think it was the RMC--RM--I think it was the Mounted Police, yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Yeah.

ADM: I'm pretty sure it was, yeah.

TT: Yeah. And how would um, how would you describe their uh, their behaviour or their treatment of your father?

ADM: Well, I think uh, they settled into uh camp, and he never, never said very much about any, about the war or the camp. It's something he wanted to forget.

TT: Hmm.

ADM: Na--he wanted to put it away because like I say, I, I always felt that uh, it really bothered him a half year for--you know had been taken. He never really you know uh, that's why he never said much.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: He wasn't very talkative.

TT: Hmmm. Did he ever um, mention maybe people he had been um interned with or, or did, did he talk about being in camp?

ADM: Well I had my uncles there too, eh. I had a couple of uncles there and--and ah, they, they never said very much. I think they just--everything was uh cut and dry you know you had your--you, you did this, and they put you to work, you did the odd thing and--They bo--they never said much about the camp at all.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Never talked about it.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. And you had two uncles or a--

ADM: Yeah there was a couple uncles, yeah, yeah.

TT: And their names were?

ADM: Scappatura.

TT: Okay.

ADM: One was Frank Scappatura, one was Vincent Scappatura.

TT: Okay. [Pause] Um...and how long were your uncles interned for? Do you happen to --

ADM: --Well uh, the--they um, one uncle that uh his family was still in Italy, the only family that never came over. Ah, he eventually died with--li--living with us, but he was there for the duration of the war. Yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: [Pause] But he uh, never, he nev--I don't think he ever became a Canadian no, even though he lived here for the rest of his life, you know. Yeah, he wasn't well and never we--never went back, back to Italy.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: So he stayed with us until he died. He lived with uh Naaaaarls [?]

TT: And where, where was your father and your uncles? Where were they interned?

ADM: Right, my uh, were, were--my dad died here in North Bay south to me.

TT: Oh no at the camp. The camps that they were taken to. The name of--

ADM: --Oh in Petawawa.

TT: Petawawa.

ADM: Hmmm mmm. Yeah.

TT: Um...were you ever--did you ever visit your father or your uncles [Unclear]—

ADM: --No, no, no. They, they...No, they never let us go, no.

TT: Did your mother visit--

ADM: --No, no. They contacted him--just letters eh, back and forth. Yeah.

TT: And uh, did you, did you write any letters yourself?

ADM: Not, no I didn't. No, my mother always--she asked us what we wanted to say and she always, she'd, she'd do all the writing yeah.

TT: And were you able to read the letters that your father or your, you know your uncles--

ADM: --Yeah. Oh yeah. [Nods] Hmmm mmm.

TT: Do you recall what kind of uh things they were saying in their letters?

ADM: Well uh, like I say, he never said very much about, about uh just that everything was uh regimented, eh. Like and uh, everyday was the same as the, the last one. [Chuckles] Pretty monotonous life you know? Being in the camp like that.

TT: [Pause] Can you, can you remember what you know what was happening maybe the week before your father was picked--like taken up--uh taken by police? Like, was there any, any sense that something was going to happen? That Italians--

ADM: --No.

TT: [Says faintly] No.

ADM: --No I didn't, I didn't realize, especially my dad was actually President of the Returned Soldiers of the First World War here in North Bay.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

[0:50:37.8]

ADM: He was the president for a couple of years. And uh...and, and I never thought that would happen, yeah.

TT: ...Was there uh, a, a lodge of the Order Sons of Italy established in North Bay back in the 20s or 30s that you can recall?

ADM: Not really, no. No, they're not, not that much. No.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Um, other than that, I, I belonged to uh one or two or three, men got together and they started a boys' band. And uh, so I belonged to the Italian--it was an Italian boys' band.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: First boys' band North Bay ever had.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And I have a picture of it over there. [Points]

TT: Okay.

ADM: And uh...that's abo--the--they didn't really outside of Italian church, and uh, and the church club--I don't, I don't think there were too much activity.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And eventually, built a place up, up on um, on north part of the city. They have a club...and uh--Italian club and it's still out to this day, they named it after Joe Di Maggio, ball player and uh famous uh...I think uh Da--Dante, famous--and uh the one other--and they put three names together and called it Davedi.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Davedi Club.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Put three er famous Italian people, put the three names together.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Called it Davedi. They just honoured my family there about a year and a half, two years ago.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: They uh, pretty well uh, they had a big dinner and they honoured five of us and I happened to be the one of them.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: ...So had uh...it's um, it was very active. They all got together. And they, the boys, like the guy that found and bought this piece of property. They all pitched in and did the work themselves, you know, free. Gave the work free--while they worked on the weekends and that and uh, they get their work free.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And became pretty active. And they, they, they run it to this day. They have a lot of uh dinners and activities, weddings and everything else there. Called Davedi.

TT: Now going back to uh the Italian band that you were involved in. When would that have started?

ADM: In the early 30s.

TT: Early 30s.

ADM: Yeah. Um, my, one of my wife's relatives was a musician. Taught music.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: He was a railroader. We worked in the office in the railroad. There's a picture of the band over there [Points]. There's--And um, that's even before we had uniforms and started this uh...he taught music on the side and then he worked at the rail--office at the railroad.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: His name was Conginal [?]. And my--related to my wife, wife's side of the family, yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. And what instrument did you play in the band?

ADM: I played the [Says while making hand gestures] kettle drum.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: I don't really have that uh--an ear, good ear for music, I just have the [Says while making hand gestures] rhythm and the beat. [Laughs] I can't sing a note. [Laughs] No, no, there's no Italian in me when it comes to singing. [Smiles]

TT: And how long were you involved in the band for?

ADM: Several years, yeah. About, about three or four years we played in uh--we used to play in all the little towns around here. They used to have when they had the celebrations and everything.

TT: Hmmm mmm.

ADM: They used to get us to go there and play. And uh, we had an (Old Home Week) [?] in 1935 and we played in that. So uh, we were pretty active.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And we had a church play with ba--with the band and involved in the church play.
[Laughs]

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: So we're pretty active.

TT: ...Um, did your father ever talk about anything that they've might have done in camp for fun? Um, any kind of entertainment while--

ADM: --Not really. Nope, no.

[0:55:03.2]

TT: [Says faintly] Alright.

ADM: No, he, he--when he came home that was it. His, he, he--just like he wanted to put that over, there. He didn't wanna...he didn't want to think about it or talk about it. But I knew it bothered him you know, yeah.

TT: Was you know...did your father change, like bef--like was there a difference in him perso--in his personality prior to being put in camp as opposed to coming out?

ADM: Well I think um, it did affect him and [Stutters, unclear] uh in a way he was sort of uh not as open you know. Not quite as open as he used to be. Yeah, and I found that, that still bothered him after yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: For quite awhile.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: It took quite a few years for him to get over it, yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. And--

ADM: --He was hurt you know, you know.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. And did he--

ADM: --But--

TT: --have any, like was he ever told why he was interned? Or whether justice--justification--

ADM: --No, no, no, no. No, as far as we know, no, no, no reason at all. That's one of the big, big things that the bishop and the lawyer that helped him--get my dad out, because there was nothing that, that, that the--they could say against him. There was nothing that they could, that you--there was no reason for him to be put in the camp.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: [Pause] 'Cause he came to the New World, to, to start a uh life, brought up a family and everything and you know. He left that all behind him to start a new life and uh, uh became a succc-successful in business...And it really hurt, you know, yeah.

TT: ...And you know, you had mentioned that it was quite difficult with the store, losing a lot of business while your father was away. Um, what else can you uh tell me, even about your, your uncles and their families, how, how did everyone get along? How did they, did, did you help each other or?

ADM: Oh I--well our families were always together. Like uh, like when we first came we stayed with uh, we, we stayed--like my dad took over the store, my uncle brought his family to Italy. We st--we lived in the same house with my, my uncle, one of my-- my second uncle. And we lived in the same house. And uh when they came back, we, we were there for a little while together, there was the two families. They made um...in the attic, they made uh like a big bedroom there for awhile until, until my dad bought this other place. Until he bought the house, bought his own place.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: But the families all helped each other. Oh yeah, they're, they're always uh...one way or another, like my dad took to his business over and ran it for several years and...and uh when his boys, the boy that was uh, an engineer, or electrical engineer at ENCO, decided to start uh, a business in Sudbury, my dad helped him to buy the property. Lend him all the money, no, no interest. And ah, he payed it all back eventually. But they all--one way or another, our families helped each other.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Yeah.

TT: How about the wider Italian community, um, did people kind of rally around families that, that had you know, maybe fathers or husbands interned or?

ADM: Not that much. No. No, there's sort of uh, not, no there was nothing done when, when uh it happened because the--they more or less laid low eh because...the war was you know like--Italy getting into this war was--the main reason they got into this war because the First World War was flopped. This is uh, this is uh, I'm talking about an English history book. In an English history book, it showed that England had lost a lot of its commercial business to Germany. That war was, was, was, was manmade. It wasn't fought for any other reason than for uh economic and, and um. So in the Second, Second World War came, Italy was left of the--after the war was over, the spoils of the war, Italy was left out completely. And they fought ha--probably ha--fought the hardest part of war in the mountains. And, and they called it uh--they fought in the mountains against Germany. They called it uh the rocks--were the rocks were called like uh, fighting with--in the rocks of knives, you know. And like I say, my uncle was uh, was killed there in those mountains during the wars. So Italy was left out of the war--after the war when they divided the spoils and everything, Italy was left out of it completely. And that's the only reason

that Italy went with Germany in the Second World War, because other, other than that it would never, never would have happened.

[1:00:39.4]

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: So uh, the, the First World War was never, never fought for any other reason but there was a good reason [Says while laughing] for the Second World War. [Laughs]

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: Hitler wanted to take over, yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

TT: You know ho--how did, how did um, you know Italian folks living in North Bay, how did they feel about Italy joining the war with--

ADM: --They felt, they felt bad. Because lots of us, cousins and--you know already fighting, we're already in the war, and they were either in the Air Force or the army. Like uh, like I say, all kinds of uh cousins and that like uh...Like my, my uncles uh had four boys, two of them in the army, two in the Air Force, and they lost one.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: Got killed...in the Air Force and uh...So there was a reason for the fight for Canada in the Second World War, but the First World War should, should never have been fought.

TT: Hmmm mmm. To back up a bit, um can you uh comment or you know, about how, how um Italians in North Bay might have felt about like Mussolini uh, um, um and his, his role as leader of Italy?

ADM: About who?

TT: About Mussolini.

ADM: Yeah, Mussolini, yeah actually, he was the one that put--brought Italy altogether. And he made Italy a safe country to live in. Pe--but um Italy was divided in all different sections. There was har--very little...difference between when Canada became a country and when Italy became a country. And...when uh, Mussolini was, was actually, what he did for the country, uh people respected him for the good that he did for the country. Did a lot of good, but then joining Hitler was a big, was his big mistake. But mostly because they were, they were left out before, because they were left out of all the uh you know activities after the First World War.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: But uh, Allies actually pushed him away, you know.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmm mmm.

ADM: But Mussolini was uh, was...by going--joining Hitler he--it was his big mistake.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. So prior to, to Mussolini's alliance with Hitler, he--Mussolini was kind of seen in a, in a favourable light?

ADM: Oh yes, absolutely. Yeah, everybody respected him and yeah, until the war came along. Yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Because It--Italy, Italy was um, and, and like I say, a whole bunch of separate states and he made it all into one country.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And he made it a safe country. You, you weren't safe on the streets at night until, until he took over.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: So he did a lot for the country, built roads and...made Italy, changed Italy quite a bit into uh--in those days into a more modern country. Did a lot of good. But like I say, his big mistake was joining the--Hitler.

TT: And in North Bay in the 1920s and the 1930s, was, was there any kind of like organized Italian fascists group of some kind or anything like that?

ADM: Well [Stutters, unclear] he was the head of the fascist eh. And they were just like another group, like a Liberal or a Conservative or whatever it was and so on. They had like a, a lot of places had a youth group, you know, different cities might have had uh, a youth group.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. And, and North Bay had one?

ADM: Not really, no, no.

TT: Hmmm.

ADM: I think, I don't know, I'm trying to remember if...when we got all our musical instruments, I think they were bought by the, by a fascist group. I--

TT: --[Says faintly] Hmmm mmm--

ADM: Fascist group.

JJ: That was her--Nadine's uncle. Italo!

[1:05:01.1]

ADM: Yeah Italy Gioya was uh [Points] he's in that picture there. He, he was uh he had something to do with it. He was a machinist.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And he was interned, as well.

TT: Okay.

JJ: Nadine's husband.

ADM: His name was Italo Gioya. He was a, a machinist and then he ended up in Toronto working in a machine shop eventually--

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: --after the war.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

JJ: Nadine has some--

ADM: --But they bought the--they, they bought the in--instruments for us, but outside of that didn't mean nothing to us. We were kids.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: We just played in the band and...

TT: Were there any um Italian-language schools in North Bay?

ADM: Not really. No.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmm. [Pause] Did anyone, uh, did anyone in the youth group get to travel back to Italy on for--

ADM: --Yeah.

TT: Yeah.

ADM: Yeah in um, when I was a teenager, I was about um, I think I spent my uh...fifteenth birthday in Italy, but it was exchange students.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmm.

ADM: Between Italy and Canada. And then they had, they had them from different countries all over the world. And we went to a camp in Northern Italy in Como, near Mount--ever [Unclear] Como, Lake Como. Just below Lake Como. And uh there was groups from China, different places--Kang Chang [Unclear] became the head of uh, of uh, uh, uh for--formosa [?] they, when they broke away from China. He was at that camp.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmm.

ADM: We got to know him when he was there. His son. Had uh--he ended up being head of uh, of uh--guess would it be Taiwan or what's the name of the island off of China?

TT: [Says faintly] Hmm.

ADM: Anyway, um, there were all these different groups from all over the world. We were there for a few weeks and our relatives come and got us. We got to uh stay with our relatives the rest of the summer.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm mmm.

ADM: So uh we had an exchange--we were there for the whole summer.

TT: So what kind of uh--what, what did you do at the camp in Italy?

ADM: We just um, we had uh, we used to do a lot of mountain climbing. Everyday, we had different things to do and we had uh, a place where they did exercises. And we used to go there and do all exercises and that, yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Outside of that, there wasn't that much--we just waited for our elders to get us.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: So we had to travel the whole length of Italy because we were from southern Italy. So my uncle come and get u--to get us yeah. And a cousin of my mother's brought us back. [Chuckles] And we went to Italy about eleven, twelve years ago. [Chuckles] I had um, Judy's mother-in-law's sister-in-law, were in the Foreign Embassy.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Jessens. And they were in uh Yugoslavia. They said, "If you come to Italy, we'll meet you in Rome. We'll have the tickets and everything for you." So we went with them, and we travelled from there all the way the to the north of Italy. And uh he had all the train tickets and all the hotels and everything lined up for us. We had a beautiful two weeks.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: We went to the Vatican. We, we had a beautiful trip.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: We started in Rome and ended up in Rome. We had a beautiful trip with uh--I never seen the northern part of Italy before.

TT: Have you gone back to Italy much?

ADM: Pardon?

TT: Have you gone--returned to Italy many times?

ADM: No, just once when I was a teenager and few years ago, Joan and I went with the, with the Jessens, yeah. And so they, they were all over the world, in fact Judy and them ha--they been to China, they been uh all over the world. Everywhere, where, where their mother-in-law, sister-in-law--they'd, they'd phones and like, "Meet us, like we'll send you the tickets and meet us in Ja--" They were in uh, Shanghai and different places there, yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: So they did a lot of travelling.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: But uh, we really enjoyed tra--Italy, 'cause I, you know. I never got back to my old town.

[Laughs] There's nobody there anyway.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Just a few older people left in the villages.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm....Now when you were, when you were at camp in Italy as a teenager, were you--was there someone from the Italian government that, that like spoke to you, or did you meet anyone from the Italian government?

ADM: No, not really just um they had uh--we had, we had uh a teacher.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: Uh that came with us and a lawyer that looked after us on the trip on the boat. We, we went to uh...first we travelled on an English ship to England...and we docked at Southampton and but we didn't lea--get off the ship. And then we went to the harbour in France, went to the World Exposition in, in Paris.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And, and went through the Exhibition. We visited Exhibition. And then we travelled, uh and then we travelled to northern part of Italy to Milan. And um, there was uh this teacher, and um, the um and, and a lawyer that looked after us. The, the girls stayed--they, they went to the ocean and we went to the mountains. The boy--all the boys went to the mountains and the girls went to the ocean.

[1:10:43.1]

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: It was quite a few of us.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: So we had quite a trip as teenagers you know. Yeah.

TT: Were there other, other children from North Bay that uh [Unclear]--

ADM: --Yeah there was uh four of us from North Bay. But they did this for several years, they had the exchange students. And uh...Joan, my wife, went the year before I went.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: To Italy yeah, aa--as an exchange student. Yeah.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. And what you know...she would have been at the beach I suspect being--

ADM: --Yeah, they were--the girls uh they went to the ocean and we--yeah they went to different place.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: We just travelled together on the boat.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And on the trains, you know.

TT: So do you know what the women would have been doing by the, on the ocean, like—

ADM: --Well it was just like a resort.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: They'd go, they'd s--go swimming and uh they have a routine. They'd have...but they never said too much. But it's just like here you're like on holidays you know you're...

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm. [Pause] Do you remember, were there Italian-language newspapers um, that, that people were reading in North Bay in the 20s or 30s--

ADM: --We got our newspapers uh few uh from Toronto. In fact, uh for a while we sold them at the store.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: And then eventually, they, they, some of the people they just um wrote in and got, got the papers direct, you know. Yeah.

TT: Do you, do you recall any of the names of those papers?

ADM: Oh the papers?

TT: Yeah.

ADM: Hmmm. Trying to think of what, what they called it. There was a couple, there were two or three, different papers in Toronto. And I can't think of the name of them.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: [Pause] And they're mostly uh the soccer fans, that were--that's why they bou--uh they bought them. That zz--looked for the papers all the time, but mostly because of soccer. Uh soccer-crazy. [Chuckles] [Says while pointing] Judy, my oldest daughter, got involved with soccer here in North Bay.

TT: [Says faintly] Hmmm.

ADM: My grandchildren played soccer.

TT: Like, you, you didn't mention playing soccer as a, as a youngster. You didn't play--

ADM: --No, I never. We, we played either we played baseball or hockey or, or basketball. We-- soccer wasn't big when we were kids so, but uh later on it got, it's got now--all the kids play soccer now.

TT: Hmmm.

[Pause]

[Background conversations and noise]

[Footage showing two paintings of Camp Petawawa [?] by artist, O. Bend. Summer scene signed '41 and winter scene signed '42.]

[Pause]

[Background conversations and noise]

[Footage showing Certificate of Canadian Citizenship for Carmine De Marco of North Bay, ON. Occupation: Merchant. Place of birth: Podargone, Reggio Calabio, Italy. Born: 28 September, 1888. Canadian Citizenship through Naturalization, 21st June, 1911. Age: 65. Married. 5 feet 8 inches. Race: White. Dark Complexion. Blue Eyes. Black Hair.]

[Pause]

[Background conversations and noise]

[Footage showing black and white group photo]

[Pause]

[Multiple voices talking over each other in the background]

[Footage showing Declaration of Passenger to Canada for Antonia Scappatura, age 28]

[Pause]

[Footage showing ADM holding a black and white group photo, the one shown first in this series]

[Background noise]

TT: So who is this again? This picture? The photo of?

ADM: This is—

JJ: --This is the band--

ADM: --First North Bay Boys Band.

JJ: Italo, that Nadine was talking about? [Points to man on the picture]

TT: Hmmm mmm.

JJ: That's him right there.

TT: Italo Gio--

JJ: Yup, yeah Italo Gioya.

ADM: If you notice, some of them don't even have their instruments yet. We're just forming a band and then, they take this picture [Pause] [Says while pointing to people] And this is the one that became a professor and this is the one that build a large part of Toronto. [Says while pointing to people]

TT: Hmmm mmm. And then that's you right? [Points to picture]

ADM: Yeah right here, yeah.

TT: And that's the drum you played?

JJ and ADM [in unison]: Yeah.

ADM: Kettle drum, yeah.

[1:15:32.9]

JJ: We laugh because dad says he's tone deaf. [Chuckles]

ADM: [Says while pointing to picture] This fel--fellows weren't Italian but that, that was at the ONR and he taught music at nights and that.

TT: Okay.

ADM: Musician. Played uh, played uh trumpet. He played uh different instruments, but he won at National Exhibition Toronto.

TT: Hmmm mmm.

ADM: He won the triple [Unclear] with the, with the trumpet.

TT: Okay.

ADM: He won the award.

TT: And what, what was his name?

ADM: Uh, Congino. Nick Congino.

TT: Nick Congino.

ADM: Yeah.

TT: What year would this picture have been uh taken?

ADM: I'd say about 1932 or 19--in early 30s.

TT: Okay. [Pause]

ADM: [Pause] You look at that picture, there's several millionaires there. [Chuckles]

TT: Oh yeah?

JJ: Yep.

[Pause]

ADM: [Says while holding a picture of the family store/house] We changed this top to match these tops. The new--when we built these stores, we changed the top here. But this, our front is almost, ay, ay, the same as it was then.

JJ: Ha, can you believe [Unclear] [Someone sneezes]

ADM: That's the only part of the store that's the same. We knocked out--this is an alley way here. And we knocked out this wall and we extended the store out to here. And then over here, we had to extend it out here because the store was originally just to the side of the windows. But now it's about this wide. And then and it's changed, you know.

TT: Hmmm.

JJ: Not too much though. [Laughs]

[Background conversations and noise]

ADM: [Unclear] John.

John: Yeah.

[Pause]

[Footage showing a black and white photo of a young couple.]

[Pause]

[Footage showing black and white photo of a lady, a young girl, and a young boy, outside of a house]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Pause]

[Footage ADM and TT looking at documents and photos]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Pause]

[Footage showing a black and white photo of a man, a young boy, and a young girl]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Pause]

[Footage showing the back and front of a photo, a black and white photo of two young boys and a young girl]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Pause]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Footage showing a black and white photo of a young boy/teen sitting on a fence]

[Footage showing a black and white photo of a two people sitting on a fence]

[Footage ADM and TT looking at documents and photos]

[Pause]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Footage showing a black and white photo of a house in ADM's village in Italy]

[Footage showing a ADM pointing to his village on a map of Italy]

[Pause]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Footage showing a black and white photo of a man in uniform hugging an older lady]

KC: Was this, was that your mother? [Gives photo to ADM]

ADM: Oh that's my mother and my cousin, Dom. He was in Air Force. Remember I was telling you about the...

TT: Hmmm mmm.

ADM: He was in the Air Force. Dom. [Pause] He was a good athlete. He was uh. He won a boxing championship at um, Lo--where did he go...he went to London University.

TT: Hmmm mmm.

[Pause]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Footage showing a black and white photo of a man sitting reclined on steps]

[Footage showing a bunch of black and white photos: two people standing, a group photo]

[Pause]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Footage showing a letter from Harry J. Reynolds, Councillor, dated Dec. 5, 1950. Addressed to C. De Marco. Letter stating Certificate of Canadian Citizenship for Antonia De Marco and Carmine De Marco.]

[Pause]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Footage showing newspaper article, headline: "Demarcos mark milestone."]

[Pause]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Footage showing ADM and TT sitting around a table looking at a photo]

ADM: --That owned the hotel? That's my mother. Whenever you're...

KC: Hmmm mmm.

ADM: That's my mother, my sister, myself. And this is Scappatura that owned the hotel. And this is his brother, he died young. Yeah, he got cancer when he was young. He was part owner of the hotel. And his family--his wife was from New York City and soon after he died, she moved back to New York. And they all became New Yorkers. This guy here. They all--the kids that end up in New York. This is uh...the Scappatura family. That's--this is their house. They had a big, big corner near downtown and they built a post office there eventually. Huge, huge garden. This used to be a huge, huge garden. And this is another Scappatura uncle. That's the one that died in our house.

[Pause]

TT: Hmmm mmm.

ADM: Two of the boys became the head of the rest of the family. This is the one that was a boxer.

[Unknown man]: Nice.

ADM: Dom and Tony. They bought ended up being champion boxers.

[Pause]

ADM: [Unclear] The first born in every family was an Anthony. And that's the Windsor family, Anthony De Marco.

KC: Huh.

[Background conversation and noise]

[Footage of black and white photos in a photo album]

ADM: The one that won the championship of Canada became uh, eh became um, an electrical engineer. Ended up in Sudbury, started a business. This is the one that became professor. That's the mother here. Mother was never really well. She had a hard time. Too many kids I think.

TT: Hmmm.

[Unknown man]: You follow hockey?--

ADM: --That's a Windsor family there.

TT: Not really.

[Unknown man]: No?

ADM: See don't ask me who that is.

TT: I watch the Stanley cup, but...

[Unknown man]: Yeah.

TT: Some of the Vancouver playoffs.

ADM: That's Tony again and that, that looks like Vince eh? Eh John?

John: I wouldn't know.

ADM: That looks like Vince eh?

John: I wouldn't know without hair.

ADM: Yeah.

John: With hair.

ADM: [Laughs]

[1:25:30.2]

[Pause]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Footage showing a medal attached to a ribbon with the colours of the Italian flag]

[Pause]

ADM: [Says while passing a photo to TT] When we came from Italy they bought me a sailor suit when I was a little guy and I kept buying sailor suits.

TT: Hmmm mmm.

[Conversation in the background]

[Footage showing black and white photo of young ADM in a sailor suit]

[Background conversation and noise]

ADM: [Says while holding a bunch of photos] This is uh, where my grandmother had her silk--

TT: --Oh yeah--

ADM: --Silk room. This is in the country. It's falling apart here anyway. And this is part of the backside--that's the professor there. That's the backside of our la--cousins lived. [Clears throat]
[Shuffles through photos] This is in the country like where--what they did there you know where it's hilly.

TT: Hmmm mmm.

ADM: They just made uh, like big, big steps, maybe about 20 feet wide, like that all the way up.

TT: Hmmm.

JJ: It's very mountainous. Aspermonte [?] region. [Pause] They're skiing up there.

ADM: Don't ask me where that is.

JJ: That's the well, that's in the center of town where the--

ADM: --Oh yeah--

JJ: --the De Marco uh--

ADM: --where the--

JJ: --piazz--

ADM: --Yeah, the De Marco square or whatever you want to call it. [Says while holding a black and white, group photo]

JJ: Yep, yeah, yeah.

ADM: This is when we went to Italy when we were teenagers.

JJ: That was part of that group trip. Yeah.

ADM: Yeah. [Shuffles through more photos] These are all from Italy here, these here. Not this one, no? This is Philly, John's uh, John's wife. I don't know which one this is. That's--

John: --[Unclear] No she was...

JJ: She passed away really young. Died of cancer.

ADM: This is Dom when he was in the Air Force. This is my uncle, the one that had the grocery store downtown and that's John's dad there.

TT: Oh yeah.

ADM: And these guys, I don't know who they are.

[Background noise]

JJ: That first day--

[Pause]

ADM: --Car that my uncle used to pick us up in. It used to have a middle seat in the middle. It just--two little seat you flipped over and you can sit in the middle. Hmm. That's the gang I went to Italy with, all the teenagers and the girls and--That's my brother, Frank. He was--there he is with a fish. Frank fished when he was young.

JJ: He loved to fish. Took us every year.

ADM: And there I am again--

John: --That's the government [?] docks there.

ADM: --Yeah, government [?] docks, yeah. Here's a picture we're in Windsor--taken in Windsor. That's...my cousin, Tony, and the professor, and myself here. We're all pretending we're smoking cigars. None of us smoked! [Male laughs in the background] Nobody in our family smoked except Frank used to smoke a cigar--

John: --Frank?

ADM: --Frank for awhile, but he only puffed. My dad smoked three packages of Buckingham [?] a day but he never inhaled. See if you can find Joan there John.

John: It shouldn't be too hard.

JJ: Hmmm. That's our first [Unclear]?

[Pause]

[Footage showing ADM sitting in front of a huge pile of photos]

ADM: [Unclear]

JJ: That's, that's near mom.

[Pause]

[Footage showing ADM sitting in front of a huge pile of photos]

ADM: That's a Lake Nipissing picture. [Hands a black and white photo to TT]

[Background conversation and noise]

ADM: [Unclear] Chuckles [Passes papers to TT]

[Pause]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Footage of a black and white photo of a young man and a young lady with two dogs, sitting in front of a house]

[1:30:30.4]

[Pause]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Footage of a written document]

[Pause]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Footage of ADM sitting at a table with JJ, and written document]

[Pause]

[Background conversation and noise]

[Footage of a written document, De Marco's Interview Project]

[Fades out at 1:31:59.9]

[End of interview]