

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

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 1, 2011

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Toronto, ON

NAME OF INTERVIEWEE: Andy Donato

NAME OF INTERVIEWER: Melina De Guglielmo

NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER: Louanne Aspillaga

TRANSCRIBED BY: Melinda Richter

DATE TRANSCRIBED: December 31, 2011

ACCESSION No.: ICEA2011.0026.0001

PROJECT NOTE:

Please note that all interviews have been transcribed verbatim. The language in this transcript is as it was provided by the transcriptionist noted above. The project staff have not edited this transcript for errors.

ABSTRACT

Andy Donato was born in 1937 in Toronto, Ontario. His mother, Adelina Benedetti, was also born in Canada, while his father, Luciano Donato, was born in Italy in 1897 and came to Canada, via New York, in 1922. Luciano initially lived with his brother in Toronto (formerly Mimico). He first worked in construction and then as a presser at Eaton's before opening a grocery store in Scarborough in the Birchmount and Danforth area. The store was moved to Woodrow and Danforth, where Luciano contracted a new building to be built; this store was in operation until 1957 when it was sold. Luciano then worked at Ontario Hydro before retiring at age 70. Luciano was never interned during the Second World War, but Andy remembers other relatives or *paesani* being taken away, such as the Orlandos. He also remembers some name calling and says his father was constantly fearful of being taken away. Andy also talks about growing up in Toronto, going to school, and becoming a professional artist. He has illustrated for Eaton's, *The Telegram*, and *The Toronto Sun*.

INTERVIEW

AD: Andy Donato, interviewee

MDG: Melina De Guglielmo, interviewer

LA: Louanne Aspillaga, videographer

[Title screen]

[Fades in at 00:00:10]

MDG: Okay. This is Melina De Guglielmo interviewing Andrew Donato on June 1, 2011 at his home in Toronto. So I'm, I'm first going to ask you for your full birth name and your birthday as well.

AD: Well my, my birth certificate, when I found it, was Andrea Antonio Donato and, um, eventually, I guess, it became anglicized to Andrew Anthony Donato.

MDG: Oh! And was that because of your, uh, enrolment in school, or...?

AD: Um, you know, I'm not sure how. I know I applied for, for my passport, I had to change it. And I had to get my lawyer to sign a document saying that, that I was one in the same person.

MDG: Oh.

AD: Because I was surprised when I did get—I'd lost the birth certificate. When I finally went and applied, got a new one, it said Andrea Antonio Donato, which kind of surprised me. I said, "I'm really Italian!" [laughs]

MDG: And were your parents born [AD coughs] in Italy?

AD: My father was born in Italy, uh, in, uh, 1897—

MDG: —and—

AD: My—

MDG: —your father, father's name? Sorry.

AD: —was Luciano Donato. And I don't think he even had a middle name. And my mother was born here in Toronto. And her, her name was Adelina Benedetto.

MDG: Okay.

AD: Or Benedetti. Sorry. With and i. I had an uncle who thought that wasn't classy enough so he changed it to Benedetto.

MDG: Mmmhmm. Wow.

AD: [laughs]

MDG: And when did your dad come over to, uh, Canada?

AD: He came in 1922. Um, he used to, he always used to say that, uh, it was, it was actually the day that Mussolini started his march to Rome in 1922, and, uh, he always used to say that, “He marched to Rome and I marched to Canada.”

MDG: Oh.

AD: He had two brothers here, one in New York and one in Mimico. And, uh, when he, when he arrived, the ship he came over on lost a propellor and it came over at an angle. And he was always terrified of the water after that. And he landed in New York, got off the boat and, and was looking for his brother. He'd never, he never met him. My dad was the youngest of 17 kids. So when he didn't see him, I guess he was 25 years old at that time, uh, he, he got on the train and came to Toronto and he knew where the brother here was. He had communicated with him. And, uh, he lived in, in Mimico for his first few years while he was in Canada.

MDG: Wow. And Mimico is, uh, is where?

AD: —is, is, uh, a lot would be West Toronto be—

MDG: West Toronto.

AD: —tween, I guess between the Humber and Highway 427.

MDG: Oh.

AD: That side along the waterfront there.

MDG: Okay. And, and what did your, what did your dad do when he, when he got to Toronto?

AD: Well he, like everyone else, he was construction, you know? Worked on construction, uh, and then eventually landed a job at Eaton's, um, as a presser. You know, pressing men's clothing? [mimes ironing] And he worked there for 11 years. And I was born in 1937, um, my

sister was, I guess, 1935. Uh, he got married in '35 or '34. I can't remember now which. And, um, he went in and, it was during the Depression—

MDG: Hmm.

AD: —asked for a raise, uh, 'cause, you know, he had a family and to support, and they fired him. [laughs] Imagine doing that today? So, um—

MDG: Wow.

AD: —he was out of work and, uh, my uncle, uh, who is married to, um, my mother's sister, uh, he had a couple of properties. He had one on the Danforth, a fruit store, and he said to my dad, “I just bought another store out in Scarborough. Why don't you go out there and start a grocery business?” And my dad said, “I don't know anything about the grocery business.” He said, “Oh, you'll learn.”

MDG: Mmm.

AD: So he moved out to Birchmount and Danforth Road, um, started a little grocery store out there during the Depression. I think took in \$1.25 the first day that he was in operation. And, um, and just went from there. Stayed there for several years, five years. And then my uncle raised his rent and he felt he couldn't afford that. He'd saved up \$500. He bought a, a lot just up the road, on, at Woodrow and Danforth road? And, uh, called an Italian contractor up that he knew and said, “I've gotta, I've gotta build a store.” He drew up a plan.

MDG: Hmm.

AD: And he says, “But I don't have any money.” And the contractor said, “Well, I'll build it and you pay me when you get the money.” Like, can you imagine—

MDG: Yeah.

AD: —doing that? Didn't sign anything. Built the store. Uh, three bedrooms ovetop the store and a store and a kitchen behind the store. And we moved in there in 19...I think around 1945 or something. Or just after the war. Uh, no, the war was still on. Sorry. 'Cause I remember I was in sc—in grade two when the war ended. And, um, he started his business there, um, and, you know, and then he eventually expanded the store and it got bigger and, and then he sold it, uh, in 195...6 or '57.

MDG: Amazing.

AD: And I, I was then, uh, graduated from Danforth Tech and I was, I was working at Eaton's, if you can believe it. [laughs] As an artist.

MDG: Oh, wow!

AD: And, uh, he wanted me to take over the store. But I hated it. I hated groceries and I hated all that. And he said, “Are you happy?” And I said, “Yeah, I'm happy. I'm, I'm an artist.” You know? [laughs]

MDG: Hmm.

AD: And so he sold the store.

MDG: Wow.

AD: And, he retired and, and he only retired for about two years or a year. Uh, finished his basement off in his house and where—My, my sister still lives there. And, uh, he went to pay a hydro bill one day and they say, “What are you doing, Louie?” He said, “Ah, nothing, I'm, I'm retired.”

MDG: Hmm.

AD: I guess he was 57 or 58 years old. And, um, they said, “Do you want a job?” And he said, “Yeah.” And he started as a caretaker at Ontario Hydro over at Birchmount and Kingston Road. And he worked there 'til he was 70. And then he finally retired.

MDG: Mmmhmm. Wow.

AD: Yeah.

MDG: Wow. And so what are your, what are your earliest memories of growing up in Toronto?

AD: Uh, I can remember, uh, I was, I was—I always quiz people on this, “Do you remember the first day of your life on Earth?” kind of thing. And mine was running along Danforth Road from—Our neighbours were called The Wanks. There was a German family. And I used to play in their sandpile. And a thunderstorm came up in the summer. I was running, you know, back to my dad's store, crying my eyes out.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: [laughs] It was so funny. Him standing on the, on the front of the store, laughing his head off. He, you know. And he, um, and that was my first memory of, of, of Scarborough.

MDG: Yeah.

AD: And, um, and then I remember, um, you know, other little things. I remember my mother was in, I think, in the hospital.

MDG: Hmm.

AD: And my dad was taking care of my sister and I. And, and these friends, the Orlandos, who eventually was put into one of the camps—

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: —came to visit us. And [laughs] she, she says, “Where are the kids?” And my dad says, “I put them down. They’re sleeping.” My sister and I had a little bedroom. We slept together. She came in and she came out to my dad, she says, “Don’t you wash your kids before you put them to bed?” He says, “Yeah, of course, I did.” She says, “Well, go and look at them. They’re covered in black.” And I snuck into the store and grabbed one of those black bb bats candy and I was eating it in bed. It was all over my face and all over the sheets and everything. [laughs]

MDG: [laughs]

AD: So...

MDG: That's a good one.

AD: And so, I, I remember that, that kind of moment as well.

MDG: Yeah. .

AD: And, um, and then I, I remember my uncle, uh, Frank, coming to pick me up and take me and my sister to his place when my dad closed the store on, at Birchmount and moved into the new store.

MDG: Mmmhmm. And I remember arriving at the new store and going in and seeing the meat counter that I couldn't believe they'd moved it out of the store and, you know, up there as well.

MDG: Hmm.

AD: And, uh, that was my first memory of that, that was my new home that I was moving into. I was, I guess I was five or six years old then because um—I was five. 'Cause then a year, that year, a year later I started, uh, at school—

MDG: Wow.

AD: —in grade one.

MDG: Yeah.

AD: You know.

MDG: Interesting.

AD: And I remember my first teacher, Olive Thorne.

MDG: Yeah?

AD: Yeah.

MDG: Yeah?

AD: Yeah, I had great teachers. I really had great teachers.

MDG: Which school did you attend?

AD: I went to Kennedy Road Public School, which is gone now. Um, it was an old, um, country school, kind of. Well, there were four, four rooms, you know, four main rooms.

MDG: Hmm.

AD: So there was up from one to eight but there were two groups in each school. Or so it was one and two were in—Oh, no, there was—There were portables as well they built on the sides. So, um, we, we, I, I, and I was in there one year. And I think I was in every room in that school eventually. And then my last year, grade eight, I went to J.G. Workman, which is right across from my dad's old store—

MDG: Hmm.

AD: —um, at Birchmount and Danforth Road? It's still there. It's still a functioning public school.

[00:10:01]

MDG: And, and was it a very Italian based community or where there—?

AD: No, it was all English.

MDG: Oh.

AD: It was all, we say mangiacakes. They were all...uh, we spoke English all the time. My father spoke Italian to my mother.

MDG: Hmm.

AD: Uh, very seldom spoke Italian because he had to, you know, speak to the customers who were all, you know, English, German, um, mostly all English and, well, Canadian. And, um, and then when my, my, his brother, his one living brother in Italy came over, I think, in 1950. So I was about 13 years old then. And I had to learn a little Italian to communicate with him. So my Italian was very limited. And, and I'm always sorry that I didn't, you know, speak it fluently 'cause when I go to Italy now I'm, I'm, I'm hopeless. [laughs] You know?

MDG: And, and did your mom, being born here, did she have a lot of Italian?

AD: She spoken fluent Italian.

MDG: Ah.

AD: Yeah, because her parents were both from Italy and they all, they, um, and, and they spoke nothing but Italian in their home—

MDG: Yeah.

AD:—you know?

MDG: And, and other than the Orlando boys, were there other friends that he had in the neighbourhood?

AD: Well, yes, there were. There was another, uh, *pisans*, as my dad called them, uh, Braillia[?].

MDG: Hmm.

AD: And there were two brothers. One had a fruit store and one had a clothing store in, out in Longbranch, which would have been close to Mimico at the time. Um, and he, uh, and they also had a clothing store, men's clothing on Queen Street. And he was taken and put into the camps as well.

MDG: Oh wow.

AD: So there were the two relatives that I remember being taken away. And my father had a good friend, um, his name was Ludge[?]. But I don't, I don't know what his last name was, but he died, um, I guess, when I was a boy, a young boy. But he was also, I think, interned as well.

MDG: Wow.

AD: They belonged to the Italian Club on Beverly Street.

MDG: Okay. Which—

AD: And—

MDG: Which, which Italian—

AD: [coughs]

MDG: Do you remember the name of the...?

AD: No, but I think it's the Italian embassy now, if I'm not mistaken.

MDG: Was it the Order, perhaps The Order of the Sons of Italy that they were a part of?

AD: It might have been. Yeah.

MDG: Yeah. The—

AD: They were very political. They were very fascist as well and they all, you know were, I guess, were like Mussolini. And, and they, and my dad was never, never liked, you know, going, didn't like joining things like that. He wasn't very political at all.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: And they kept saying, “Oh you gotta come. You gotta come.” And he went one time only. And, and he couldn't remember later on when they got, you know, taken in by the RCMP, he couldn't remember whether he ever signed the book and put his name down. And he just lived in terror that they were going to come and take him away. You know, he'd just opened this grocery store up and he was trying, struggling, trying to make a living. And he always tells this story about he's standing in the store one day and this big black car pulls up. And these two guys get out, trench coats and fedoras. And they get out and walk in and he thought, 'Well, that was it.' [laughs] He figures, 'They've come to get me.' And he stood behind the counter and they walked in and one of them walked up and leaned on the, the weigh—the scale he weighed his, you know, weighed the food on and said, “Are you Louie?” And he said, “Yes.” And they said, “Oh, we're from the Berkeley Scale Company and we think you should buy a new scale.” [laughs] He was so angry! 'Cause they terrified him and they didn't know. And he just said, “Get out of my store!” Picked up a butcher knife. I think he waved it at them. They ran out of the store. This nutcase! It always, he just loved that story 'cause they just terrified. So...he was fine. They never, they never bothered him.

MDG: Yeah.

AD: But my other uncle, I had another uncle, who actually owned that store that we rented from. And during the war he, um, he wasn't bothered either, but he had to deliver, he used to, um, uh, deal in bananas and, and, and fruit, going down to the market. He used to deliver at night—

MDG: Hmm.

AD: —because the people at, had, there was a—The April family had a, uh, store just on Danforth as well. And they said, “Please, you know, Vincenzo, please deliver at night.” 'Cause if

their customers saw the name Atamo on the, uh, Italian and the war had started, they wouldn't deal with them. That, that's how terrified some people were, you know.

MDG: So a strong sense of fear in the community.

AD: O, over that, yeah.

MDG: Yeah.

AD: You know. And, you, you can understand it, I mean, uh, now. Uh, we wouldn't probably do things like that now. Although mind you we, you know, if you're Muslim here and you're from Iraq or Afghanistan, you're being watched as well, I'm sure.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: You know.

MDG: Yeah. And, um, so growing up amidst, well your early life sort of being, uh, you know, war time, basically.

AD: Yeah. Mmmhmm.

MDG: You're, maybe a couple years old when, when the war started.

AD: Yeah.

MDG: Do you remember, um, watching these things happen and, and or facing any discrimination against your family?

AD: No, I remember, I, I got a few black eyes and bleeding noses from, you know, kids that were, you know, called me a wop. And...what I do remember is one night my uncle was there and the air raid sirens started going off. And, um, and that meant blackouts. You had to turn out all your lights and everything. And I remember my sister and I being in bed and my mother and father and my uncle up in the bedroom with us, because we wouldn't be—We were afraid. And, um, it, it was just a, usually it was just a test that, you know, in case planes came over there, they were suspected. 'Cause there were a couple of German submarines that were, you know—I, I think one of them was captured off the coast or trapped in, in, uh, the States. Um, that was the only thing I remember more about the war.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: I do remember, um, being in school, uh, in grade two, when the war ended. And the teacher coming in—I did a cartoon on this in the paper.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: Uh, back, on that, on the anniversary of, I guess it was the 60th anniversary, uh, 60th? Yeah, I think it was. Um, coming in and saying, “Uh, I've got good news. The war is over. You can all go home.” And we all went, you know, running out of the school into the streets, uh, and, and I remember all the, you know, horns honking and things like that that went on that day, 'cause—That was the war in Europe was over.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: Uh, Japan, of course, ended about a month or so later, I guess.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: No, a couple of months later because that would have been May. I think it was the 6th of May—

MDG: Yes.

AD: —that it ended. Yeah.

MDG: Do you happen to have a copy of that, of that paper?

AD: Uh, God. I'm trying to remember...if I do have one or not. I can't remember.

MDG: I'd love to see it.

AD: Yeah. I could look for it. If I did, I, I kept it. I'll check my, um, the office. I may have, I may have kept it at my office at *The Sun*. If I do I, I can, I can give it to you and you can get a copy of it. Yeah.

MDG: And, and so how did that, um, how did your family then continue on after the war was ended?

AD: Well, what, uh, the, um, the families, the Orlando family, um, he was a master tailor. He was a terrific tailor. Uh, the camp that he was in, he, he made all this wonderful furniture that his, his, his children have them now, because I was talking to one today. And, um, two of them

live here in Toronto and one lives out in Vancouver. And she's sending me a photograph. I'll have to check my computer to see if she sent it already, that you might be able to, to get a copy of. Um, they, the, the two, he had two sons and a daughter.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: The two sons were rounded up as well and put into a camp, but they were released later on. I guess they would have been teenagers at the time. One of them was so angry at Canada that after the war was over he left and he was an air and nautical engineer. And the other son was an architect. The architect stayed here and worked and, you know, raised a family and built homes and as a matter of fact designed [points around him] did, did the plans for this house. And the other one moved off to California and would never come back.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: He eventually came back when his, his mother turned 65, I think. Or 70. Had a big birthday party for her. And he did return to Canada but he was so bitter about being treated the way they were.

MDG: Yeah.

AD: Uh, my other uncle was in the camps and his family carried on in their clothing store and, uh, and they, they did a great job. They, they missed him but, um, my aunt Gentilina Brailia[?], she was, she could run General Motors. She was the most incredible woman. And she, she ran the business.

MDG: While he was in—

AD: While he was— Yeah. And, and, and became very wealthy. As a matter of fact, they, they started building apartment buildings out in that same area, in Longbranch, and were very successful in their business, you know.

MDG: And how long was your uncle taken?

AD: I, I think must have been in for the whole duration of the war. Like, like four years. Three. Oh no. It was 1941, I guess, wasn't it?

MDG: It, uh, Italy entered, well, everyone was arrested around June 10, 1940.

[00:20:00]

AD: 1940? Well then he was in for four years, I guess. Yeah. Yeah. They didn't, they didn't get out until after the war was over.

MDG: And this was your mom's, uh, brother or...?

AD: No. No just, uh, they were just, they were just, cousins, distant cousins.

MDG: Okay.

AD: Uh, from—It was somebody in my dad's family that married one of their sisters. One of those deals, you know?

MDG: I see. Yeah.

AD: So he called them cousins.

MDG: Yeah.

AD: They were probably 20 times removed, but they were still cousins.

MDG: Yeah.

AD: Yeah.

MDG: So everybody came back and presumably resumed—?

AD: Yes, they did. And, and I remember, um, his son, the Brailia[?], uh, Arthur Brailia[?], who's, um, in an old age home now. He was a dentist. But I remember when, um, I think it was Sergio Marchi, member of Parliament, got up in Parliament when the Italian Prime Minister came. And I think he was making some big stink about compensating Italians for the times in the camps and stuff.

MDG: Hmm.

AD: And, and I asked my cousin about it, what he thought of it. And he said, "You know," he said, "I want to forget all that."

MDG: Hmm.

AD: "You know, it was in the past. It happened. We, we've moved on."

MDG: Yeah.

AD: And he was right, you know. I think he was, anyway.

MDG: And, and how did this effect, how did that experience and these memories that you have of, whether it be, you know, getting a bleeding nose and being called a wop, or, um, seeing your family go through the interment experience of...?

AD: Yeah, well, it was, it was very worrisome. I mean, They were, you know, they lived in fear that whole time, that they might have got picked up and put in because, you know, that, that, the, um, the wives had to survive, uh, somehow. Um, whether my mother could have handled running a store by herself, I don't know. I don't think she could—

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: —'cause she, her health was always quite frail anyway. Um, and, and I, I hated that whole, you know, thing about, uh, you know, being called a wop and whatnot. It wasn't, uh, it was racist, that what it was.

MDG: Hmm.

AD: You know. But we survived it, you know.

MDG: Yeah.

AD: Once it was over, it was over and done with. They can, they can call me that now in a joking way. I don't mind at all.

MDG: Yeah.

AD: We always joke about it, you know. I'm not politically correct in any way, believe me.

[laughs]

MDG: And so then you—

AD: [coughs]

MDG: —continued on to, to after your elementary education on to high school, or...um?

AD: Yes, after, uh, public school, um, I, I knew I wanted to be an artist when I was 12 years old. I, I mean, that was it. There was no other occupation for me. So, I, um, when I graduated in, from grade eight at, at Workman. I, I wanted—There was no art course. Um, I had to go to Danforth Tech. So, and you couldn't just go directly there. If you, well I could have I guess. It would have cost my dad a lot of money to send me. So they had a deal with Scarborough. If you went one year at Scarborough R.H King, then the township would pay your way to go to, um, Danforth Tech. So I went one year at Scarborough and so I went to Tech in grade ten and had three years, a three year art course. I also went to night school to learn art as well.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: And I was in, I was in grade seven at public school and they allowed me to go as, as a, a thirteen year old kid, to go to Danforth Tech to take oil painting and stuff like that.

MDG: Wow.

AD: So, uh, I was quite ambitious in those days. [laughs]

MDG: And, uh, was your family very supportive of that?

AD: Oh, yeah. My, my mother in particular. My dad was too.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: You know, um, my mother was probably more supportive. And, um, then I, I graduated from Tech and, you know, wound up getting a job at Eaton's—

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: —in their advertising department down—[barking dog] Whoops!

[fades out at 00:23:49]

[fades in a 00:23:51]

MDG: Alright, so we were talking about, um, uh, growing up and knowing that you wanted to be an artist. And, and—

AD: Oh!

MDG: Yeah?

AD: Yeah, and, um, anyway, as I say, I graduated from Danforth Tech in 1955, um, went to work, started at Eaton's as an artist. I stayed there three and a half years and, um, I, I wanted to do other things other than what I was doing in, in ads for Eaton' s?

MDG: Yeah.

AD: Um, and at night I used to go work at a small art studio, um, for, uh, to earn extra money. And eventually he hired me. I worked with him for a year. And then I had an opportunity to start my own business, to go off on my own—

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: —with, uh, three nice Jewish boys that I met. Yeah, one was a printer, one was a mailer, one was a salesman. So we, uh, set up a little studio and I worked on my own for a few years.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: And, and then the job came open at the, um—The, my, most of my clients were in the brokerage business and they used to—It was in direct mail, mainly, direct mail into the United States? Securities Commissions in the States decided to stop them from sending in any mail. And they all closed up in one day, so I lost all my accounts—

MDG: Hmm.

AD: —in one day. And I just had gotten married, had a, my, my son was born the next day after I had to close down my business. And, um, I struggled on my own for a couple of months and then I finally got a job at *The Telegram*, the old newspaper and I was there for ten years.

MDG: Hmm.

AD: Uh, where, that's where I started doing my cartooning. And then they went bankrupt or closed up and *The Sun* started. So it'll be 40 years this November the 1st that *The Sun* started and I'm still there.

MDG: You've been there for 40 years!

AD: Forty years, yeah.

MDG: Wow. What an amazing career.

AD: Yeah.

MDG: And, and what's, what, uh—

AD: [coughs]

MDG: —is your advice for any young artists that are, are, are looking to pursue their dreams?

AD: Oh, you know, it's so much—It's just changed so much.

MDG: Yeah.

AD: I, when I started in the newspaper business, it was the old style newspapers where, you know, they used to set type by hand, you know and it was in lead and, and that, and linotype machines and all that. It was just the way newspapers were done over the last, you know,

several years, uh, prior to that. And then the technology came in, what they call coal-type and the computers came in—

MDG: Hmm.

AD: And it's so different now. I mean, there's probably one third the number of people work on a newspaper that used to work on a newspaper. Everything's on computer and satellite.

MDG: Wow.

AD: You know, a reporter does his story now and it's automatically set in type and they put pages together on a computer and they send them by satellite right onto the printing press that prints the—It's unbelievable.

MDG: Wow.

AD: So, as far as the art end of it goes, everything is being done on computers now.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: Um, and as far as cartooning goes I'd just say get into animation because it's the only thing left.

MDG: Yeah.

AD: There are few very political cartoonists even left. Most of the ones that I know are being let go from the newspapers or they're retiring—

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: —and there's not much future in it.

MDG: Wow.

AD: Now, it may come back. Because of computers, I mean, there are websites. We have a website. *The Sun* has a website. My cartoons appear on there.

MDG: Yeah.

AD: But whether, uh, there's much of a future, I don't know. The whole, that whole world has changed so drastically, you know? I feel like a dinosaur. [laughs]

MDG: Aw. And, and, um, so, uh, where did you meet your wife? Going back now to—

AD: Well my—

MDG: —earlier years.

AD: —my, uh, my first wife was, uh—

MDG: Okay.

AD: —we, uh, met at St. Bridget's, at one of those young people's clubs? And got married and we had five children, uh, three boys, two girls.

MDG: And what are their names, your—?

AD: Uh, there's, uh, Andy John, uh, Tony, Teresa, Arthur and Roseanne.

MDG: Right.

AD: Roseanne is the youngest. They were, um, the first four were a year apart almost. And then, then we lost, uh, one after that, and then a miscarriage and then we, Roseanne came along eight years later. And, uh, then unfortunately, my wife and I separated.

MDG: Mmmhmm.

AD: And, uh, I married Diane a few years later.

MDG: Hmm.

AD: And we're here now. We've been married 25 years ourselves, so.

MDG: Hmm.

AD: Yeah.

MDG: And, and, um, are any of your children, have, um, they pursued a similar career?

AD: No. None of them wanted—And, and they had, some of them had the talent to do it. They just didn't wanna compete against, against me or something. They just didn't, never, never went into it, you know? So [dog jumps up on the couch] they do—Oops!

MDG: [laughs]

AD: [to the dog] Hi! They do other things.

MDG: Yeah. [dog sits down]

AD: Oh she my little girl. [rubs the dog]

MDG: Yeah...I'm just going to review. I think that, um, that is basically probably it. Uh—

AD: Yeah.

MDG: Is there anything else you'd like to add that you feel you didn't, we didn't address or—?

AD: No, I think we covered the alien part of it. You know, the, uh, that part of it, which is the main thing you want. And, um—No I think we covered just about everything. Yeah.

MDG: Okay. Well thank you so much for—

AD: Oh you're, you're very welcome—

MDG: —taking the time to meet with us and I know you're very busy so...

AD: You'll have lots to edit there, anyway.

MDG: [laughs]



*Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens:
Memories of World War II*
901 Lawrence Ave. West
Toronto, ON M6A 1C3
T: 416-789-7011 F: 416-789-3951

AD: Doors knocking and things—

MDG: Yeah.

AD: —things like that.

MDG: Oh, no. No problem at all.

[fades out at 00:29:41]

[End of interview]