

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

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** May 5, 2011

**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:** Sherwood Park, AB

**NAME OF INTERVIEWEE:** Mary Biollo (Keehn) Doyle

**NAME OF INTERVIEWER:** Adriana Davies

**NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER:** David Bates

**TRANSCRIBED BY:** Krystle Copeland

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Mary Biollo (Keehn) Doyle was raised on the family farm with her five brothers and three sisters in Venice, Alberta. She was married in 1936 and moved to Edmonton to teach. Her father, Olivo Giovanni (Oliver John) Biollo, was at work on the farm on a day when she was home visiting; a police officer arrived to arrest him and took him directly to Camp Kananaskis. Mary Doyle recounts how he was not allowed to change out of his dirty work clothes or say his goodbyes to his family. She states that he was accused of being a fascist out of jealousy. After his internment began, Mary also faced an investigation for teaching Italian, and was forced to quit teaching her language classes. Her father was later transferred to Camp Petawawa, where he worked at keeping the camp books and became a friend of Mayor Camillien Houde. Mary Doyle has two sons of her own, named Charles and Linn and taught at many schools over her 36 year career.

#### **INTERVIEW**

**MD:** Mary Doyle, interviewee

**LB:** Lorrina Belland, niece of Mary Doyle

**AD:** Adriana Davies, interviewer

[Title screen]

[Fades in at 00:00:08]

AD: Uh, my name is Adriana Davies. And I—

MD: I can't hear you. [Shakes head]

AD: Don't worry, I'm just—

MD: Okay. [Nods]

AD: My name is Adriana Davies and I'm the interviewer for the, um, Columbus Centre, Villa Charities research project on, um, internment and enemy alien designation of Italian Canadians in the Second World War.

MD: [Shakes head again to indicate she can't hear]

AD: I'm interviewing, uh, Mary Biollo Doyle. Mary, can you give me your full name? Um, including your maiden name.

MD: Mary Nell[?] Teresa Biollo.

AD: Where were you born? And when?

MD: I was born in 1915, September the 26<sup>th</sup>. In Edmonton, Alberta. At the Misericordia Hospital.

AD: Now you were a very important person because I believe that you were the first baby born to the future colonists of the—

MD: I—there's a bit of a, uh—there was a Tony Bonifazio[?] and I don't remember who was the first or the—I think I was, but I'm not quite sure. But I was born in Edmonton, but Tony was born in Venice, Alberta by a...an, uh, uh, uh, an ordinary person that was doing it.

AD: A midwife.

MD: Yes.

AD: Your father was the founder of the Venice colony.

MD: One of them.

AD: Can you tell me a bit about that?

MD: Yes. Uh, he was—he had bronchitis and asthma [touches hand to chest] and he couldn't stand the pollution of, of cities. So he, um—I don't know [touches chin while thinking]...who was the Italian Counsel at the time, and they were developing comm-communities and he came to, uh, Venice, Alberta. They came by, uh, as far as Athabasca with the, with the train, but from Athabasca they came with a team of horses and oxen to Venice.

AD: And, uh, do you remember how many were—

MD: In the, in the bunch.

AD: —in the convoy? Yeah.

MD: Well, there was Pio Bonifazio[?] and, uh, Joe [Joseph] Michetti. Those are the two. And my dad. And I think there was a—I'm not quite sure if an Angelo Di Angeli[?], who was the, uh, president of the Italian Society.

AD: Well, I think he was the Italian, um, consular representative.

MD: He was. Yes. He was the consul for Ital—for represent—for Italy.

AD: So can you tell me a bit about your father and, and when he left Italy to come to Canada at, at first?

MD: He came when, uh—he was sponsored by the group of, uh—that were building the railway. And he worked—he got his, uh, passage paid and he worked on the Trans Canada Railway.

AD: And he initially settled in Winnipeg I believe?

MD: [Nods] Yes, when he—when the, when the work was finished he started a hotel in Calgary. [Shakes head] No, Winnipeg. On Portage and Main. They meet and he was at the corner of Portage and Main Street.

AD: So tell me a little bit because he was a businessman I gather.

MD: Pardon?

AD: He was a businessman I gather.

MD: Yes [nods], he bought an old store from a Mr. Kiss. And, uh, he started his business from that. Then he got the post office. And he was also the agent for the grain company.

AD: So then, um, how many children were in—did they have?

MD: Uh, at the time?

AD: Well, in all.

MD: Uh, uh, he had five boys and four girls. Nine.

AD: And they were—the others were all born in Venice, were they?

MD: Pardon? [Stretches neck out to hear]

AD: The other children were born in Venice?

MD: No, we were all born in Edmonton. Yeah, mother always came by railroad and had the babies in Edmonton. She always had—because there was no doctor or hospital for her otherwise.

[00:05:18]

[Whispering in background, unclear]

AD: So, can you tell me a bit about growing up in Venice. What it was like? [Static sound]

MD: Um, we [shrugs] worked on the farm and did chores and [long pause]...there wasn't—we never socialized much. We had enough in our family.

AD: And, so tell me about the range of businesses that your father started in Venice.

MD: Well, he had—the, the store was already built, but it was old and...broken, you know, worn. And then he built a new store after. And he had the post office in with the store.

AD: And what else did he do?

MD: Hmm?

AD: What else did he do?

MD: Mm, he had training from McTavish[?] University. [Nods] For business.

AD: So, he was an established person in the—

MD: Yes, he also went to college in Italy. But he really wanted to be a priest. Yeah, but they wouldn't accept him because he had this asthma and bronchitis. [Gestures toward chest]

AD: So what year did he arrive in Canada?

MD: Oh. [Pauses and looks down at the floor] Would you know? [Looks off camera to ask LB]

LB: I thought 1902.

MD: Nineteen oh-two.

AD: Very early then.

MD: He was only 19.

[Whispering in background, unclear]

AD: And what, what was his full name? Your father's full name?

MD: Well, that's a good question. [Nods] Because it started off by being Bellis[?], and, uh, Biollo. [Looks off camera to LB] I guess after that. Yeah. But we went to school at the convent and we're registered under the name of Bellis[?]. They haven't got Biollo at all there. [Smiles]

AD: So do you think this happened when he arrived in Halifax and they got his name—they wrote his name—

MD: From Halifax he came right—where did he go? [Looks down while thinking] I guess he—I couldn't tell you where he came first.

AD: Mm hmm. So they may have just made an error in his name because his name is Biollo.

MD: Well, you know when they got off the boat, they would write any name. And even if they were from the same family, they each had different surnames. [Smiles]

AD: So it, it was not as accurate as is expected today. So, you—tell me about your schooling. Where did you go, where did you go to school? What did—

MD: Well, I went for six years, to the Lac La Biche Mission because there was no school in the district. Then when they built a school, I went there for two years. [Holds up two fingers] Then I came for grade nine to Edmonton, and I took all my education in the Edmonton area.

AD: And so when did you decide to become a school teacher?

MD: Pardon?

AD: When did you decide to become a school teacher?

MD: Um...after I finished grade 12.

AD: And so did you study in Edmonton?

MD: [Nods] I was in—I came to the normal—no, I actually went for the normal school in Calgary because they had closed the University that year and I had a choice of going either to Camrose or Calgary. But I chose Calgary.



AD: And then you returned to Venice and—

MD: To teach, yes. [Nods] For several years.

AD: And what did you teach?

MD: I taught in, uh—my first school was in a new school, uh, called Christy Creek[?] in the Beaver River area. I had—I don't know, I think I had two years there. Then I taught in the home school of Venice for a while. Then I taught in Hylo, then after that I came to Edmonton, I was already married and I taught two years in Edmonton. I taught in, uh, Namao area for two or three years. Then I went back teaching in Leduc.

[00:10:06]

AD: So then, can you tell me a little bit about life in Venice? What was it like? And how many Italian families were there?

MD: Well, there was—we were scattered, you know, on the different farms and there wasn't much communication. [Shakes head]

AD: But there was a church, wasn't there?

MD: Yes. [Nods] My dad always sponsored for a church and a school. He was a builder. And he liked to have people get together and they had picnics and things.

AD: Now did the priests come from Italy?

MD: Yes, Don Carlo Fabris[?].

AD: Was the priest—

MD: Was the priest for a while.

AD: —during the war. Yeah.

MD: But he had to, uh—he couldn't—there was no money to support him. So he came to Edmonton and he was teaching seminarians.

AD: Now, can you tell me about some of the social activities?

MD: Oh, there was very little. Just home parties and that's about it. We—they have a-an annual picnic every year. Yet they still go on with it where they serve pasta and a lot of Italian food.

AD: But the Italian families now, most of them have gone from that area, haven't—most of the Italian families have left that area.

MD: [Nods] Oh, the original ones, but there's still some there, not many, not many.

[Cross-dissolve between clips 00:11:46]

AD: So can you tell me the date of your marriage?

MD: Pardon?

AD: What year were you married?

MD: Nineteen thirty-six.

AD: Okay. And how did you meet your husband?

MD: He w—his mother and father lived in Hylo and he was working away, but he came to Hylo and that's how we met.

AD: And how many children did you have?

MD: [Leans closer to hear question]

AD: How many children?

MD: I have two.

AD: Two children.

MD: Two boys. Charles and Linn.

AD: Now, I'm going to ask some questions now about your father and the enemy alien designation...

MD: That he was picked up?

AD: ...and the internment. So can you tell me what happened?

MD: Well, they—he—my dad was working in—on the farm that day. He doesn't—didn't work much on the farm because we had a hired man because he couldn't work with the coughing he had. And, uh, but this day he was working out on the farms and the policeman just picked him up and didn't even let him change his clothes. Not even take a toothbrush. Never said goodbye to all the members of his family. Nothing. They just picked him up and took him to camp Kananaskis, in Calgary. Close to Calgary.

AD: Did the police or the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] given any explanation?

MD: [Leans closer to hear]

AD: Did the RCMP give any explanation?

MD: None, none. [Shakes head]

AD: None.

MD: Just he was accused of being an alien by one of the members of the colony.

AD: Okay. And, uh, do you know who that was?

MD: Yes. She was just a young girl, but she was influenced.

[Cross-dissolve between clips 00:13:45]

AD: Who was this gentleman?

MD: He was the agent of the, uh, grain elevator. I can't remember the name of the grain elevator because they kept changing it every once and a while.

AD: Why do you think he reported your father, your father?

MD: Why was he accused?

AD: Yeah.

MD: Just a matter of jealousy because my dad never had an enemy. [Shakes head] Not from here, himself. [Gestures to her chest and car horn honks in background]

AD: But there, there was a strong Italian presence and was there any fascist activity that you can, that you can remember? Was there any fascist activity?

MD: Oh yes, they had a—what would they call it? [Looks down thinking] A club. Italian club. And they would gather together, more for playing bocce, having a glass of beer. They'd get a keg of beer and they'd play this bocce game. But all—they never discussed politics or anything. [Shakes head]

AD: Now—

MD: And my dad I think was the president at one time or another.

[00:15:04]

AD: Now, you also did some teaching of Italian. Can you talk about that?

MD: I was—uh, yes, I taught. They asked me to teach Italian in the school, but it was after hours. But I did use textbooks from Italy. [Nods] Published in Italy.

AD: And what was the content of those textbooks?

MD: [Leans in to hear]

AD: What was the content of those books?

MD: [Frowns in thought] There was a bit of, uh, politics in it. You know, like saluting and, uh, fascism and, uh...but we never dwelt on that part. It was the Italian language we were learning.

AD: So how did, how did the family react to your father's arrest?

MD: Well, we were in shock because several of us, uh, several of us didn't know it was happening. But I think I was there visiting that day. From—I was married then.

AD: And how many children were there still at home?

MD: They were pretty well all at home. [Nods] All that were born. I don't think Val was born yet, nor David...nor Gloria. Uh, they would have been Mike, Vallie[?], Florence, me...I don't know about Arthur. Yes, Arthur was born. [Nods]

AD: So who looked after the post office and the store and so on?

MD: Yeah, the post office was in a corner of the store.

AD: And so who looked after your father's businesses and the farm?

MD: Pardon?

AD: Who looked after the businesses and the farm?

[Cross-dissolve between clips 00:17:10]

AD: So the person who accused your father of be—[Mary leans in closer to hear] of being a fascist, benefitted, benefitted from his being away.

MD: Oh. [Says with a thoughtful, drawn out sigh and shakes head] That I can't answer. I don't know. [Shakes head]

AD: So—

MD: Well, they got the store. But... [Shakes head] Not the store, they got the post office. 'Cause the store belonged to my dad.

AD: So, in terms of the impact on you, were you—you were—were you able to continue to teach Italian?

MD: Who asked me?

AD: Were you able to continue to teach Italian...after that?

MD: [Shakes head] Mm, I don't know how that happened. Must—would have been one of the par—some of the parents got together.

AD: But when your father was arrested, were you able to continue to teach Italian?

MD: [Shakes head] No, after that I didn't teach it anymore, no.

AD: Okay.

MD: Burt Tonsi[?] was the one that investigated the case.

AD: And was he a local Italian? Was he a local Italian? [Says slightly louder]

MD: No, he was from Edmonton.

AD: Okay.

MD: I think he's still living there too.

AD: So he investigated your father's case?

MD: Pardon?



AD: He investigated your father's case? Or—

MD: No. [Shakes head]

AD: —yours?

MD: No. Mine he did. [Nods] After dad was picked up, they interviewed me.

AD: And what, what—tell me about the interview.

MD: [Shakes head] Mm, I can't remember too much. I just told him what it was. I said it wasn't political. It was to learn a language and the books were available. They supplied the books, so.  
[Shrugs]

AD: And so then they accepted what you said? They accepted what you said?

MD: They what?

AD: Did they accept what you said?

MD: Oh yes. [Nods]

AD: And that was it?

MD: Yes. [Nods]

AD: Did you have to report to the RCMP after that.

MD: No, no, no, no, no.

AD: You didn't. So can you tell me a bit about your—where your father was sent and, and a bit about his experience and, and internment? In the internment camps?

MD: He was picked up from Venice, and taken to Kananaskis camp, close to Calgary. Then from there he went to Petawawa in Ontario. And I can't tell you how many years it took, but during that time, he had to get his niece, uh, Jean Biollo to come and do the business. 'Cause my mother couldn't handle it, and the ki—uh, the children were too young to take over.

[00:20:21]

AD: So can—do you know anything about his experience at camp Petawawa?

MD: No, none whatsoever. He, while he was in the camp in Petawawa, he kept the books for the camp. And he met Mr. Houle—H-O-U-L-E. [Camillien Houde]—from, uh—who was the mayor. Now I'm not quite sure but I think it was of Montreal. He was the mayor. Who was also at Petawawa and they became very good friends. Because dad was a very friendly person, you know.

AD: What was your dad like when he came back from, um, the internment camp?

MD: [Makes a distressed humming noise] What was he like?

AD: Yeah, when he came back?

MD: No, he was the same father. He was our same dad. [Smiles]

AD: But how did he feel about being interned?

MD: Uh, he never spoke about it, not to me, you know. [Shakes head] But he adjusted. He was a man that was—he could be easily—he lived for the time being, you know. He was always very outgoing.

AD: So did he return to his businesses and the farm?

MD: [Nods] Yes, he had the store again. And he was the elevator agent after.

AD: And he continued to farm.

MD: Yeah.

AD: Now how do you think that the internment and the enemy alien designation affected Venice? The people of Venice?

MD: [Strains to hear]

AD: How did this affect the people of Venice?

MD: [Shakes head] Mm, they just accepted it, you know.

AD: There wasn't any sense of injustice?

MD: No. But this Mr. Johnson took up his case. And there was a Corporal Hanna who was in charge of the Lac La Biche Detac—the, uh, [looks at Adriana with question] Detachment? Yeah. [Nods] And, uh, they got together and, uh, put up a case to the government that my dad didn't—was not guilty of anything and then he came out. They brought him home.

[Cross-dissolve between clips 00:22:53]

AD: Do you think it was these two [clears throat] Anglo-Can-Canadians who, um, fought on behalf of your father who got him released?

MD: Hmm?

AD: They got him released, is that correct? Uh, Mr. Johnson?

MD: I—wait, I can put this up? [Points to hearing aid]

AD: Just a tiny bit.

MD: Not yet. No.

AD: Yeah. Mr.—um, Corporal Hanna and Mr. Johnson, uh, got your father released you feel?

MD: Well, that he wasn't, uh—that they didn't have a trial and they didn't have any proof. They just picked him up and took him because he was accused of, I don't know what, of being a fascist I guess.

AD: So they never provided any evidence?

MD: [Shakes head] No, no, no, no. Nothing. Nothing. Just hearsay.

[Cross-dissolve between clips 00:23:49]

AD: In terms of Father Fabris[?], the priest, the priest, was he involved at all in—

MD: [Shakes head] No, no, no. He came after all this was over. From Italy.

AD: Your father was not bitter. Your father was not bitter after his experience?

MD: Pardon?

AD: Your father was not bitter after his experience in the camp? Your father was not angry—

MD: [Shakes head] No, no he wasn't angry. He never was. He never carried grudges. No. He was a very good father too. [Nods]

AD: [Long pause] Do you know whether your father and mother wrote to each other when he was in the internment camp?

MD: Pardon?

AD: Did your father and mother write to each other when he was in the internment camp?

MD: [Nods] He used to write. Yes, yes. But mum couldn't read or write. [Smiles]

AD: So who would read the letters to her?

MD: Mum—we would, the children would read them. But I wasn't at the—I was already married and I wasn't at home.

AD: So you don't know what—

MD: No, no.

[00:25:15]

AD: [Long pause] How did the neighbours react to your father's arrest?

MD: How did...pardon?

AD: How did the neighbours react to your father's arrest?

MD: [Shrugs] In those days, you know, you accepted everything. You never—they never would criticize them, it was [waves hand back and forth] water under the bridge, you know. They wouldn't discuss. They just accepted him. Because he was very kind. When he died, you'd be

surprised how many people owed him for groceries. And, uh, Val would have the book. I haven't got it. But he's got the ledger. But...no there was no bitterness. Uh...

AD: Not even about the people who, uh, told on him or accused him—

MD: No, he became—he was always friends with them.

[Cross-dissolve between clips 00:26:23]

AD: Did you yourself feel any discrimination or anything else because of this episode?

MD: Uh, no. I wish I had that book. I—you know if you get a hold of that book you'd get more information.

AD: Yes, I'll make a point of—

MD: Yeah.

AD: —getting it...for the project.

MD: Because I wrote that article—

AD: You did.

MD: —for the book.

AD: Now were there any young men of Italian ancestry in the, um, Canadian armed forces at that time?

MD: [Looks confused and unable to hear]

AD: Were there any soldiers from Venice, um, serving, um, during the war?

MD: What's that? I'm sorry.

AD: Were there any soldiers from Venice?

MD: Oh yes—

AD: Serving—

MD: —after you mean. Yeah, there was my brother...my, uh...brother-in-law...I think there was Joe B—Joe, uh, Bonifazio[?]. Uh, I can't think of any others that were of that age.

AD: Mm hmm.

MD: And, uh, George Keehn. [Long pause] He died, they're, they're all gone now.

AD: Mm hmm. [Long pause] How did, how did your mother feel when your father was taken away?



MD: Oh, she was bitter. [Nods] Definitely. Because she didn't—they didn't give—have a chance to even say goodbye properly.

AD: And you—

MD: No, he was working in the field and they took him away with his dirty clothes and didn't even give him a chance to say goodbye to all the members of the family.

AD: And you mentioned that she couldn't read or write.

MD: No, she couldn't read or write. [Shakes head]

AD: So she couldn't operate the post office?

MD: No, no. But my, uh—she did keep the post office on her name, but she couldn't read or write and that's when he got—they got my cousin to be, uh, representative for dad. She was a business girl. [Nods]

AD: In terms of your, your family's long history in, in Venice and also as pioneers, do you want to tell me a bit about the life of being a pioneer in Northern Alberta at that time.

MD: We just took things for granted, you know. Like I was born after the railway was built. I think I would have been the first child on the railroad. That—from Edmonton. Because that's where they lived before. Dad had a store on 96<sup>th</sup> Street. It's still there, as far as I know.

AD: Was it the first Italian grocery store in Edmonton?

MD: That I don't know. I don't know. I imagine so, but I'm not sure.

AD: [Long pause] You've heard now about—

MD: But first of all, they—when my—when they got married, they were living in Winnipeg. And they had a big house. Three levels. [Gestures to show size of house and levels with hands] And dad had brought up from Italy, his two brothers. So the three of them worked in this hotel for a while. Then they wanted to get the license for selling liquor. But dad didn't have his papers yet. So he put the store—uh, the, the building of the hotel on the partner's name and he took it all.

[00:30:40]

AD: So he was taken advantage of.

MD: Yeah, he took it all. Kept it, he didn't share it. [Gestures with hands off-camera] It was just in—I guess in Winnipeg there's a place that comes like that. [Gestures with hands off-camera] One street is Portage and the other one is Main. And they come to a point and I think they were at the point of the building there.

AD: Now Mary, you've heard about, um, the Japanese internment and the protests—

MD: [Shakes head] I don't think we were aware of that because we're kind of isolated, you know, from being out there in the country. And we never had—we just know what we read from the books now. We didn't know.

AD: So when did you become aware of Italian internment, um, and that academics and others were looking at it and seeking an apology?

MD: Uh, no. [Shakes head uncertainly]

AD: Were you aware of this?

MD: No. Hylo and Venice were close. It was only four miles apart. But we didn't know other communities.

AD: Mm hmm. But since, uh, you know in the last 20 years or so, you know, you've heard about the Japanese and, and getting an apology, what do you think about the Italians?

MD: Well, I think they deserved it. But so did the Italians. But as far as I know, they never did get it.

AD: And so, no one in government wrote anything to your father after? Nobody said anything to him—

MD: Pardon?

AD: Nobody said anything to your father after his release from—

MD: Oh, that I wouldn't know.

AD: You wouldn't know.

MD: Because I was away from home. And, uh, not living there you didn't discuss things much.  
Life just got together again.

[Cross-dissolve between clips 00:32:43]

AD: When you left Venice, where else did you live?

MD: Just in Venic—uh, on the farm.

AD: Mm hmm. But when you left, where, where did you live and work after your marriage?

MD: Where I we—lived?

AD: Yeah.

MD: On the farm near—in Hylo.

AD: Mm hmm. And when did you—

MD: Well, first of all we were in town and we had a room, uh, part of a big building that Mr. Keehn was going to have a second hand store, but he didn't develop it. So the front part was always empty and we had two rooms at the back, a bedroom and a, and a living area. And I was teaching school in Hylo, just across the road. [Gestures with hand]

AD: And so, when did, when did you leave northern Alberta?

MD: When did I leave Hylo?

AD: Yeah.

MD: [Pauses while thinking] When my son was five years old. So, he wasn't born... [Long pause]  
What year was he born in...Charles? [Asks LB off camera]

LB: Forty-one.

MD: [Shakes head] I can't hear.

AD: Forty-one. Nineteen forty-one.

MD: Nineteen?

AD: Forty-one.

MD: Forty-one? Well, it would have been five years after, 1947...when I left. I had to leave. It was too much pressure.

AD: And so did you end up working as a school—

MD: [Strains to hear]

AD: You worked as a school teacher throughout your career?

MD: [Nods] I was a school teacher, yes. I was at—a school teacher from 18 year—at 18.

AD: And so you taught all of your adult life?

MD: Yes.

AD: Can you tell me a bit about what it was like to grow up in a farming family? What did you do on the farm?

MD: What did I do on the farm? [Shrugs] Cooking and cleaning and...gardening. That's—just ordinary chores of the day. Look after my son. But I did start, uh, teaching when he was a baby. I was—and my mother-in-law looked after him in the store. She also had a store in Hylo. And she'd, uh, care for him while I was teaching. But I'd come home at noon because it was just across the road.

[00:35:29]

AD: Is there anything else that you want to tell me about your past and your family's past?

MD: [Shakes head] Just routine work. You know, daily work, teaching and then going back home and helping with the family. And that's about it.

AD: And do you, do you still speak Italian?

MD: Yes, I do. Well, I can get by. [Laughs] And I speak—I could speak French too, but I'm forgotten the fluency.

AD: Yes. Now, when you came to Edmonton did you become a part of the Italian community or not?

MD: [Strains to hear]

AD: In Edmonton did you—

MD: I taught, uh, at St. Agnes School for two years.

AD: Mm hmm.

MD: Then I went and, uh, in the township of Leduc. And I taught there till...I retired. I taught all together 36 years.

AD: Did you teach your sons Italian at all?

MD: [Sits forward to hear]

AD: Did you teach your sons Italian?

MD: I taught Italian in Hylo, while I was in Hylo, but that's the only place. Uh, no, I think it was in Venice I started. Yeah. I started in Venice. [Nods]

AD: Is there anything else that you'd like to share with me?

MD: Hmm. [Raises eyebrows and ponders question] Nothing outstanding. You know we'd have the occasional dance and that's about the only socializing we ever did. And we'd have, uh, Christmas concerts and...just basic. There wasn't much socializing.

AD: Now did any of the men in, um, Venice and Hylo work outside of the farm?

MD: [Strains to hear]

AD: Did any of the men work outside of the farm? Italians?

MD: There wasn't much else. Most of them were farming. [Nods] Or working out or something, you know. No, there wasn't much. It was scattered. Farms were about two miles apart. And sometimes they didn't socialize. But this Mr. Johnson lived out in the Beaver River area and that's where my first school was. Where I taught. They built a brand new building for the school. It's not there anymore. It's gone. It was up on a hill. Just by the river. And that river starts from Saskatchewan. [Traces river in the air with finger] It was called the Beaver River. [Long pause] It's still there. [Smiles and laughs]

AD: [Laughs] Well, thank you so much for allowing me to interview—

MD: Yeah. [Nods] You'd get more information by reading that Hylo-Venice history.

AD: Well, I am going to get that material—

MD: Where would you get one?



AD: I know, um—I went to school with one of the Michetti boys.

MD: Pardon?

AD: I went to school with one of the Michetti boys and I—he's got a copy of it.

MD: You got one?

AD: Yeah, yeah.

MD: Because there's more information on there maybe something that you haven't seen.

AD: Yes, yes.

MD: Yeah.

AD: Well, thank you so much.

MD: Oh, you're welcome whatever I could tell you. [Smiles]

[Fades out at 00:39:32]

**[End of interview]**