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NAME OF INTERVIEWEE: Italo Tiezzi

NAME OF INTERVIEWER: Francesca L'Orfano

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ABSTRACT

Italo Tiezzi was born in Ottawa, Ontario on March 12, 1933. His mother, Rosa Tiezzi (née Di Nardo), was born in Canada on September 8, 1911 and his father, Gino Tiezzi, was born in Florence, Italy on July 1, 1904. Gino grew up in Italy, with his mother working as a governess for the Marchese Guadagni. He then immigrated to Canada with his mother and the Marchese who hoped to become a gentleman farmer. Unfortunately they arrived in Quebec in the middle of winter and life in Canada was not what the Marchese expected. The farm failed and Gino and his mother moved to Montreal and then to Hull. Due to Hull's close proximity to Ottawa, Gino soon became affiliated with the Ottawa community and St. Anthony's Church where he met his wife, Rose. Italo recounts his father's early introduction to and admiration of fascism and Mussolini and his father's involvement in various social organizations in Ottawa. He recounts the events in and around June 10th, 1940 when his father was arrested and when there was a general fear in the neighbourhood. Italo's father was one of the few internees who was interned at Petawawa, released and then re-interned. Upon his re-internment his father was held in jail for 60 days before being transferred to Petawawa and then Fredericton. During this time, Italo's family struggled to make ends meet, but due to the strong will of his mother and assistance from the community they were able to survive. Italo's mother took a job at a bakery and then with the government where she was able to save 7000 dollars. His mother also took it upon herself to lobby for her husband's release speaking to various agents and judges on his behalf. Gino was one of the last internees to be released on September 8, 1943. When he returned home he was not able to go back to his old job and instead had to take a number of menial jobs until young Italo suggested his parents buy a store that was for sale. His parents were able to do so using the money his mother had saved up and the family grocery store soon became an important gathering place on Preston Street and for the Italian community. After his return Gino would recount stories of his internment and seemed to understand the government's rationale for interning him. However, Italo notes that stories about the internment ceased four years after his release when Italo's brother Silvio, the oldest son, died in a car accident. Despite these hardships the family succeeded and Italo recounts a happy life,

however, he notes that he had a much harder time accepting the internment and the suffering it brought than his parents.

INTERVIEW

IT: Italo Tiezzi, interviewee

FL: Francesca L'Orfano, interviewer

TT: Travis Tomchuk, videographer

[Title screen]

[Fades in at 00:00:10]

[Camera zooms in and then zooms out slightly]

FL: Thank you very much for agreeing to, uh, be interviewed, uh, on a subject that I know is very close to your heart, but also very painful. Um, please feel free to not answer any of my questions if you feel you don't want to. Um, and, uh, and also elaborate in any other way beyond my questions at any point. Alright?

IT: Fine. Thank you. [Smiles]

FL: Um, can you tell me your full name, um, and your parents', uh, names and dates of birth?

IT: Right. My, uh, full name is Italo Tiezzi. Um, my father was Gino Tiezzi and my mother was Rose Di Nardo, uh, Tiezzi. And, uh, my birth was March 12th, 1933. My father's was July 1st, uh, 1904. [Smiles] My mother's was, uh, September the 8th, 1911.

FL: And, uh, siblings?

IT: My brother Silvio was born four years before me, uh, in 1928.

FL: And tell me about the dynamics of your—

IT: Sorry, '29 was the year. [Smiles and nods]

FL: —the dynamics of your family? Sort of tell me something about how, how—you know, what you remember of your childhood with your parents and...

IT: Yeah. It was a fun time up to, um, the, the date of the, uh, internment. Um, uh, we had to—we lived with my, uh, father's mother and, uh, his stepfather, uh, in the same house. So I had the benefit of the three generations, um, which is a rare thing I think today...although it's coming back. [Laughs]

FL: What was your grandmother's name?

IT: My grandmother's name was Ada, uh, Tiezzi Brandonio.

FL: Okay, okay. And when did your parents either come to Canada or how—explain—

IT: No, my mother was born in Canada.

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: And, and, uh, my father came to Canada in 1923. And, uh...from Florence. Uh, he was living in Florence with my grandmother and, uh, they lived with the Marchese Guadagni, a nobleman who—and my grandmother was sort of a, uh [shakes head]...what do they call those, uh, ladies that take care of the children? [Smiles and gives slight laugh] The, uh, sort of, sort of a governess in the, uh, house. She taught the kids and they were—um, uh, she helped them out. And, uh, dad came over with the Marchese, uh, who wanted to be a gentleman farmer. And he came to, uh—they landed at P[?] in, in, uh, Quebec. And, uh, it was winter and the snow was very, very high [raises arm to show height of snow] and it wasn't what the Marchese thought, uh, a farm would be. And so he, uh, uh, lost everything, ended up in Montreal, my dad was also there, got a little job I think as a waiter and then things of that sort. Um, and then, um, they moved to Hull, Quebec and that's where, um, he was close to Ottawa and came to St. Anthony's, um, and that's where he met my mom.

FL: Okay. And so your dad when he came, was it intent—he came along with the Marchese, was he planning to immigrate or, or was it just—

IT: [Nods] Yes, he was, uh, with, with the Marchese. Yes, they both were planning—in fact, the Marchese remained in Canada and his family remained there and they did very well again and, uh, uh, yes, they were very, very fine people, very nice people.

FL: And so your—you mentioned, uh, your father met your mother at the St. Anthony's. So—

IT: She—

FL: —tell us that story.

IT: He was, uh—yes, he, he belonged to—he was the first president of the Catholic Action at St. Anthony's. Ah, um, wi—and he, um...uh, the procession on June 13th, um...mother was the secretary of the Children of Mary and, uh, she was in the procession, uh, walking and he noted her. She broke a heel; it caused a little a [starts laughing] attraction. And, uh, uh, her, her *compare* was a shoemaker and he fixed it right on the spot. And, uh, she, she—uh, he met her there and, uh, that's where it started. And three months later they married. You couldn't have a long engagement in those days.

FL: No, [unclear] those days. Okay. And, um, how did your father feel about Italy at this point when, when he, you know, married your mother?

IT: I think he was very close. There's no doubt my father, um, uh, was there, uh, when fascism began. Uh, and then he left—he was 16 at the time. And he, uh, was an admirer of [Benito] Mussolini, he never denied it and I don't think I should, uh, for him either. Um, he, uh, he wasn't the only one as you know. Uh, [Sir Winston] Churchill, uh, uh, FDR [Franklin Delano Roosevelt] and, uh, uh, Mahatma [Mohandas Karamchand] Gandhi [counting on fingers] and everybody was praising Mussolini at that time. And, uh, many people, especially in Canada as well. Um, French Canadians in Quebec, uh, were very ha—Catholics were very happy and so were Irish Catholics because of the concordat the Lateran Treaty in Rome [shrugs], uh, that pleased a lot of Catholics. And, um, that—so that, uh, he wasn't alone.

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: But, um, he did, um—uh, yes, he—uh, I don't know what more on that would you like me to say.

[00:06:02]

FL: So, his, his relationship with Italy stayed positive?

IT: Oh, very positive! He, he loved, uh, Italian things and, uh, taught us and he wanted Italian, eh, to be spoken in the house and not—it didn't matter outside. In fact, there's a cute little story of my brother, four years old. Um, he, um, was speaking English in the house, 'cause mother [shrugs and gestures with hand] had to learn Italian, she had a Calabrian dialect and she learned the Tuscan from my father, my father was Tuscan, and, uh, with my grandmother. They, um, uh, taught her and he was speaking Italian, my brother's first language was Italian. Uh, and, uh, then he picked up English of course and he would come in the house and the father would say, "Eh! [Holds up finger] You must speak Italian." And so he went outside, knocked at the door—he wanted a nickel, he said, "Give me a nickel dad." And he said [shakes head], "In Italian." And so out the boy went out and knocked at the door and said, "Give me a nickel." [Laughs] So, we, we, uh, stressed our, our, uh, [laughs] Canadian existence very early. Uh, d—uh, dad told that story so he liked it. [Nods]

FL: Now you mentioned that your father was involved with the Catholic Action?

IT: Yes.

FL: Is that—what is the Cath—was, was that the name of the Catholic Action?

IT: Yes, it was at the time. It was, uh, uh, not political, but, um, uh, sort of an apologetic association to defend Catholicism because there were attacks, uh, against it. I think that, I may have that wrong, but I think that's more or less what it was.

FL: But what—

IT: Or doing things for the church, yeah.

FL: Okay. Um, and, uh, what about your, your—I know you’ve mentioned this in the past, your father’s involvement with various associations. Your parents were quite active—

IT: Yes, well when he came here, our, our community was, uh, generally, um, a very f-fine group of people, but, uh, had very little education. And he had the—he had a high school education, which was considerable at that time, even in Canadian terms, uh, not everybody did finish high school. And so he became, I don’t want to say leader, but that kind of, uh, very active at organizing. He organized a lot of things, banquets, uh, plays. [Counts on fingers] Uh, he coached the, uh, a basketball team, a, a softball team—uh, a manager, he wasn’t coach so much as a manager of these things. And, uh, then he also, uh, put on, uh, plays under the church, uh, classical pieces and stuff of that nature. And, uh, was very interested in opera, he wrote, uh, articles, uh, on the opera, uh, for, uh, [unclear] company that used to come to the Capitol Theatre here in Ottawa. And, uh, he took my mom and she’d borrow a, a cape [mimics putting on cape] or whatever it was from, uh, a wealthier person. [Laughs] And, uh, it was, uh—yeah, they, they were—he—as you—to get back to your point, uh, very interested in Italian things and promulgating them, even outside of the political picture, it was just a love of... [Gestures with hands] And—but he still wanted people in Canada to know about it, so he had a love for them as well.

FL: And so your mother was equally involved with all, all—

IT: She was, uh, more, uh, backing him up all the time and doing, uh, what, uh—uh, yeah, he—uh, she wasn’t as active, uh, but she was there, as most women are when the men do their things. [Laughs] Uh, she was certainly very important to him, yes.

FL: And was this all done on, on voluntary basis? Like your father wasn't—

IT: Yes, it was voluntary.

FL: And what kind of work did he have then? What was his—how did your parents support the family?

IT: Okay. He worked for the Ottawa Electric Company and he was a meter reader. Uh, and, uh, he did very well because it was, uh, rec—it was, uh, Depression time and he was making 75 dollars a month, which was quite good at the time. And, uh, he, he enjoyed it very much and he was up for a promotion until, uh, then the arrest came about.

[00:10:25]

FL: And your mother, was she, was she working outside—

IT: No, she was in the home where women should be at that time. [Laughs]

FL: [Laughs]

IT: She—later you'll find out when she... [Laughs]

FL: Oh, okay.

IT: ...broke that. [Laughs]

FL: Okay. Alright. So, and your parents married, what year was that? That was in—

IT: In 1928.

FL: They, they were married. Okay, and then—okay.

IT: [Nods] Yeah. That's why my brother was born in '29. [Laughs]

FL: Okay, okay. Um, and in terms of—so you mentioned that these were all social organizations that your father was involved with. Were—

IT: Yes—

FL: —there any political organizations?

IT: Uh, not that we—not, not truly political in Ottawa, there were in, uh, in Montreal and other places, that I know of, I can't, uh, swear by these things. But it seem—the Sons of Italy, uh, which was throughout North America in fact, uh, at one point, uh, became non-sectarian and the group in Ottawa—rightly or wrongly—um, decided they wanted to remain connected to the Church. And therefore it became Sons of Italy *di Sant'Antonio*, of St. Anthony's. Uh, so it was St. Anthony's Sons of Italy Society. And they had to have their own constitution and dad and Mr. Luigi Scarcella wrote the constitution for this, uh, thing. And their motto was, *Non erubesco Evangelium*, I'm not ashamed of the Gospel. And it was pertaining to [holds up fist in a sign of pride], uh, their religious belief. And, um, so that's the difference. So it wasn't very, uh, all political, however, uh, there, there was that affection and Ita—uh, attr—uh, you know, connection with the, uh, Italian culture and the rest of it; to promote it and to, uh, uh, advance it and the rest of it.

FL: So did this mean—how, how invo—was then your father involved with the Italian Consulate or the—

IT: Yes. Now the Italian Consulate as you know, uh, was representing the fascist government. And, uh, uh, yes, he was, uh, uh, he—in order to get, uh, support for the activities in the community, uh, it was the best source available at the time. And, uh, yes, he worked with them for, um, uh, events. There were bands, uh, formed [starts counting on fingers], we never had a band in Ottawa before that, there were, um, plays put on and things of that—a, a trip for students, uh, to Italy. Two trips in fact. He was, uh, accompanying, with my mom he accompanied one group, uh, over. Uh, but, uh—so there were activities, yes, through—and they, they knew each other and, um, that, that's for sure.

FL: Okay. And in terms of your, your father's involvement with, you know, arranging these things, I think you mentioned, uh, it wasn't specifically within the Italian community. Was he trying to promote Italian culture just to the Italians in the community or, or was your father sort of more broadly—

IT: Oh, um, um, it was broader than just Italians. Some of, um, non-Italians were involved in these activities, um, and became very, uh, [shrugs] very, uh, Italianate. [Laughs] And they—in fact, uh, one of them—I've forgotten his name right now, uh, it was an Irish name—ended up living in Italy, um, I heard, uh, uh, later and then came back. He was very, very attracted by the culture, yes. And there were several others too. And one of the, uh, parishioners, uh, Irish parishioners, she, um, loved Mussolini so much she had, uh, her—his picture put in her casket when, uh, she died. And the daughter was complaining about, um, uh, the Italians afterwards and my mother had to remind her that your mother [laughs and nods], you know, had Mussolini's picture in the... So, it just shows you what the times were like and it wasn't a

question of, um, any [shrugs], uh, putting against anybody, uh, any—one country against the other or anything like that.

[00:14:43]

FL: Okay. Staying with this idea of the times, uh, you, you mentioned your father was a 16 year old, 16 year old in Italy when fascism had already—

IT: Yes.

FL: So, uh, at this time, before that fateful day, what, um...what, what was the understanding of what was going on politically?

IT: Okay. In Italy? [Gestures to his right]

FL: In, in Canada. In terms—

IT: Oh, in Canada.

FL: —of your father. In, in terms of were they aware of, of, you know, uh—you've mentioned the very positive feeling towards Mussolini, but—

IT: Yeah, I—

FL: —did that change at any—you know, was there any—

IT: Oh, okay, good point. Um...my dad was a believer in, uh, leaders and he fought—you know, even Canadian or It—he loved [Sir Winston] Churchill, was a good leader and, uh, you know [says while counting on fingers], [unclear]. And he believ—he was an idealist in that sense. And that was very, uh, I think, uh, like the Miss Jean Brodie [*The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*], uh, thing. [Says while moving hands forward in circular motion] Um, it, it, it was permeating society in that time. People liked order, uh, as opposed to disorder, which was happening in Italy. And that's why he—uh, his family was, I'm told recently, uh, was mostly socialist. So was Mussolini, he was a socialist and most of his family remained socialist even after Mussolini changed to, uh, fascistic, um—his own party sort of thing. My dad and his uncle kept with him. And, uh, so it was more Muss—they call it in Italian *mussolinianismo*, uh, uh, uh, an -ism—Mussolinism more than fascism at that time. However—'cause I'm sure my dad would never have been a good fascist if he had remained in Italy, 'cause I knew him well. [Says while counting on fingers] His, um, uh, ideas were democratic, uh, his—the way he handled the family, the way he handled, uh—in his associations, all the, uh...uh, what do you call them? Constitutions that he wrote for the different clubs, they were all very democratic. And, um—uh, so I'm, I'm convinced that he would not have [begins laughing] survived too well over there. Uh, I told him that once and he, he kind of agreed. [Nods] Um...he, uh, remained—what was your question? That, that he, that he remained...

FL: Well, as things were changing—

IT: Ah yeah, did he change. He did. Well of course when the war, uh, he was very, very disappointed with, uh, Mussolini's joining [Adolf] Hitler. Uh, that he was not, uh, in accord at all. [Makes pained expression] And, uh, and he wasn't alone [shakes head]...most Italians, a lot of Italians—now I'm not saying all of them—but, uh, generally, uh... I wonder if Mussolini himself didn't regret it a bit. [Laughs]

FL: And when, uh—in that time period prior to, you know, the police knocking at the door, um, were there any, uh—was there any inclination that something was about to happen to the Italian community? Was—were there rumours? Were—

IT: I, I was very young, as you know.

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: Uh, but I, I think I hear—I heard, yes, that there were, there were some fears. And, uh—although dad was convinced that, uh, Italy was gonna remain neutral because the, um, World's Fair was gonna take place, uh, in 1940...I don't know [shakes head], around that time. And, uh, uh, unfortunately that didn't come out. But, uh, he, um—the—yes, the—there, there was—but right that day, from that day, there's a story that goes on that there were a lot of chimneys, uh, exuding fl—smoke in Jun—on June the 10th, which means that people were burning things. [Chuckles while speaking] Usually they were, uh, calendars that showed Mussolini or Mussolini with the Pope or whatever, um, they, they were scared and when, um—and any papers, newspapers or whatever they might have had that indicated, uh, something Italian they would, uh—they were burning things. Yes—

FL: And would that—

IT: —they were scared. [Nods]

FL: And so where did that fear come from? Was it—were the—were there rumours? Were there...

IT: No, I think that was on June 10th and on. [Nods]

FL: Was on—okay.

IT: Yeah.

FL: So prior to that—

IT: I don—I, I don't know about that. [Shakes head] I, I never heard that there was, uh...

FL: Okay.

IT: ...fear. Yeah.

FL: Okay. So tell us about—

IT: It wasn't expected, if that's what you—

FL: Okay.

IT: —were suggesting.

FL: Okay. When, um, when the police, um, you know, the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], arrived—like tell us the experience of how your father was interned. And that, you know, um—'cause I know he was interned twice, but sort of h-how did it happen?

IT: Yeah.

FL: You know, your, your bur—your view as, as a child at the time?

IT: Right.

FL: Uh, what you remember?

[00:19:30]

IT: Well from what I can remember I was returning fro—I returned from school, uh, with my friend Tom Curly[?], uh, a grade two, uh, classmate. And, uh, we usually went to the shed that was attached to our house to play with the little train set that I had. And, um, uh, that day, uh, mother stopped us and told Tom he better go home and then, um, I saw the two strangers in the house searching and, uh, um, searching for material. And, uh, then, uh, I caught on that, uh, something bad was happening and they were going to take my father away. Uh, mother asked them, the, uh, two gentlemen to, uh—who were, who were, uh, very nice, they were nice, uh, uh, fellows...RCMP, I guess, but in plain clothes. And they, uh, did, uh, accede to her request to, uh, wait for his mother to come back from the Remy Theatre. They'd go not for the movie, but, uh, they would, uh, get a...a volume of the, uh, encyclopedia; they were—every time they went to the movie they'd get a different volume and, uh, uh, that's how we got our little encyclopedia. [Laughs] And so we waited for th—they waited for them. In the meantime my mother, as I mentioned to you before, beat a-a-an egg with, uh, sugar and put, uh, coffee in for him, which was supposedly, uh, to reinforce him. Uh, 'cause he was a, a small, um—he wasn't weak, but he didn't, um—he, he was thin and, uh, uh...didn't look, uh, very strong and therefore, um, everybody concer—was concerned about him. Uh...he—they, they, uh, they did wait [nods] and, uh, when his mother came back they was—she was told. Uh, I was scared and, um, crying of course. And they put—they took me out and brought me to, um, across the street to the neighbours [makes gesture with hand to indicate crossing the street] that, uh, uh, bought me some ice cream. And I remember that well 'cause the ice cream was good, but the tears

were falling into it and I'm not sure what was happening. [Laughs] And, uh, my brother was sent to another fa—uh, neighbour. And, uh, uh, then he was taken away.

FL: And what did—do you remember—what, what did your mother tell you about? Or did you remember being told—

IT: No, it was all mysterious because we—they didn't even know. We didn't know where he was or where he was going. Uh, we heard later what happened. But, um, he, um—it, it was just done that way, almost surreptitiously. [Shakes head while looking down in disbelief] We didn't...

FL: Okay.

IT: Very little explanation.

FL: Okay. And, and your father—

IT: No charges or anything. [Shakes head and shrugs]

FL: So no charges were ever—

IT: [Shakes head] No.

FL: And they never—so what happened after that in terms of, uh—what do you know about what happened to your father?

IT: He was taken, uh, to, um...in the same car as his friend, uh, Doctor Vittorio Sabetta, who was also picked up, before my dad in fact. And, um, they, um—one was in the front, one was in the back [gestures to indicate one person sitting in the front of vehicle and one in the back] and, uh—I told you the story [gestures to Francesca]—um, couldn't communicate 'cause the, uh, the police, rightly, were saying, "You can't talk." And so instead of talking Sabetta starts singing, "When were you picked up?" [sings the question with a laugh] and the rest of it. [Laughs and says while moving hands forward in circular motion] And, uh, uh, and the other—[shakes head while laughing] and my dad wouldn't respond. For one thing he couldn't sing. [Begins counting on fingers] He knew operas inside out, uh, knew the music, but he could not sing. And so I don't think he answered singing, he thought Sabetta was a little weird doing it. [Says while laughing] But he told that story. They did tell a lot of humorous stories afterwards...about the "college," which they called the concentration camp. They called it "the college." And it was called the concentration camp, some people object to, uh, that use, use of it, but that's what we knew it as. [Nods] It later became known as the internment camp.

FL: Can you tell me some of the stories? That, uh, you said about "the college," the humorous stories that you remember, that your father told of thing that happened perhaps in the camp?

IT: Well, uh, no there were some good ones and some... Uh, the, the food, um—one of, uh, the—I guess I can mention other names from Ottawa? Um, Mr. [Giuseppe] Costantini, uh, cooked, um, and, and that was alright, 'cause everybody liked that, uh, including the German and the, uh, the Japanese were not there yet, but they also came later, but I don't think they ate, uh, European food. [Shrugs] I'm not sure of that. Uh, but then at one point, um, Mr. Costantini was, uh, relieved of that job and, uh, they had someone else cooking and, uh, everybody objected, including the Germans. Yeah, I think it was a German cook, [laughs] but they, they preferred Costantini's [unclear], so he got back on. Um, my dad was put in—they had to do some labour, hard work and everything. But dad, uh, was allowed to, uh—he was in

charge of the barrack, uh, the barrack that he was—it was barrack, uh...[leans to pick up paper on table] 53...at Petawawa. And, uh, he had to control the men and the rest and, uh, everything. So he was in charge. Again, he was an organizer even over there. [Laughs]

[00:25:10]

FL: Mm.

IT: But, uh, he—they didn't suffer too much. He did tell some sad stories of, uh, a blind man being there, another one who urinated blood and they—he felt they shouldn't have been there. [Shakes head] He thought a lot of people that were in there shouldn't have been there, they, they were not...organizers or political. He didn't mind himself, he said, "I understand because I was active in the community and important that maybe they had a right to say, um, 'This guy is too active and, uh, we, we got to watch him.'" [Shrugs] But, um, the, uh, the others, uh—there were a lot of people that [shakes head] had no political, uh, attachments to—well, including the, uh, artist Nincheri, uh, Guido Nincheri, who, um, uh, because of that painting in the *Notre*—uh, *Nostra Signora Della Difesa* [Chiesa della Madonna della Difesa], *Notre-Dame-de-la-Défense*, in Montreal. Uh, the painting was about the concordat which—of which I spoke a little while ago. [Gestures up to ceiling to indicate where painting is located in the church] Uh, it's in the, um, sanctuary. And, uh, it depicted the Pope and the—all the Cardinals. The Cardinals by the way were priests that we knew, the faces, uh, he made them all Cardinals, uh, which was a trick that they, uh, did in the Renaissance and, uh, used—and in fact the hairdos were, uh, 1930 hairdos and stuff of that kind of thing, in some churches that he did. He was very prolific. And he was non-political this man and yet they interned him and, uh, were not very nice to him. On the train when he was being taken from, uh, the place they interned him in Newfoundland to, uh, uh, Petawawa, uh, they placed a sign on him, fifth-column, and some people, uh, were abusive. And, uh, he, he—[shakes head] that hurt him very, very much. A very sensib—sensitive

and, uh, religious man he was. He had two, two [holds up two fingers] sons who were priests and, uh, uh, was very, um... Anyway, uh, that—and now they, they’ve, uh, honoured him, by the way, with a stamp [gestures to indicate a stamp between fingers], a government stamp and, uh, they call him the Michelangelo of Canada. And he’s very prolific in the United States and Canada. He’s dead now and, uh... Anyways, where was I? I’ve, I’ve, uh—

FL: In terms of the stories that—

IT: In, in the camp.

FL: —in the camp.

IT: Um, yeah—

FL: So he was, he was at Petawawa.

IT: He was at Petawawa for, um, the first—for nine months.

FL: Okay.

IT: Uh, uh, and then was released. He was released and...a number of months later re-interned. But in the re-internment he wasn’t sent back to Petawawa, he was put in jail in Ottawa. [Shakes head] Again, I can’t...[shrugs] explain anything because there’s not been any explanation. Uh, the only thing they told him was, “We don’t know what to do with you.” And, uh, they kept him there and he suffered very much being in jail. And Father Graziani, one of the priests, would go and visit him and sneak in a chocolate bar in his stocking, um, [chuckles] to—for him. And, and dad said all the prisoners were respecting him. They were—and they were shouting out [holds hand up to mouth and shouts], “Let him go! He didn’t do anything!” [Laughs] You know ‘cause

he hadn't stolen, he hadn't, uh, you know. But he didn't have the rights that they had. Um, thieves and murderers had a right to a trial, but these fellows did not have a right to a trial. And that's the part that bugs me, um, [shrugs] even to today. I can understand everything else, but, uh, the trial thing. That was the War Measures Act and we can't [shrugs]... But I don't think that's necessarily changed even if they did away with it. [Shakes head] And my, uh, reason for speaking today is [shrugs] I hope that we can, um, avoid that kind of thing and maybe—I understand taking precautions and we all are in accord with that, but, um, give the—your citizens—and that's what they were [points with finger], they were British subjects, as we all were before 1947. Even me. And, uh, they were, they were not given the rights. That happened in Britain too, so I can't—and it was a British thing, even the internments were run by, um, British intelligence, uh, so it wasn't really RCMP that gets all the blame and they were just the servants of that and, um... And of course our, um—I, I can go into other things, but I'm getting off the topic that you, uh...

FL: No, that's fine. The—just to go back to when your dad was re-interned...

IT: [Nods]

FL: ...do you know how that came about? How—

IT: No. Uh, well, it came about in that he was, uh, 60 days in jail and said to them—uh, even though the lawyer, uh, tried and, uh—they had him in handcuffs and the lawyer made a case and they removed them and apologized 'cause they shouldn't have put him in, [shrugs] he wasn't, uh—uh, never threatened anybody or anything. But, uh, and he, he was pleased with that. [Laughs] He—the lawyer charged 2000 dollars, which was an enormous amount at that time, uh, but he didn't mind. He said it was worth hearing him say to the judge, "You people are as bad as the Nazis!" [Laughs] You know, and he, he was so happy about his, his, uh, statement that, uh, he didn't mind the cost. Well we did. In any case, um...he was tak—he said, "Don't

keep me here. Send me back to the camp. You know, there's no, uh..." [Shakes head] And he went back to Petawawa. [Inhales heavily]

FL: And there was like no explanation was given?

IT: Never, no.

FL: And even, um, in terms of—'cause I'm going to go—

IT: There were suggestions of, oh, that, uh, he belonged to the, um, uh—I told you this about the OVRA [Organization for Vigilance and Repression of Anti-Fascism], which I understand some people in Montreal say that it did exist in Canada. Um, my dad didn't know what that was. Remember he came here, he was 19 years old, OVRA probably didn't even exist at that time. [Shakes head] Now whether it existed in Canada and then, uh, per—I have no idea about that. [Shrugs]

FL: Okay.

IT: Uh, but, um, eh...there was no proof or anything except, um...he thought that there could have been, uh, some kind of false evidence on that. [Shrugs] But we would never know, I can't even discuss that because the—nothing was ever shown or...

FL: [Unclear], okay. So then there was—uh, I mean 'cause I think he was one of the very few that was re-interned, right? And—

IT: I would imagine, I, I have not heard of anybody else being re-interned. And why he was re-interned? Was there a grudge, was there somebody that, uh, said he shouldn't have been out

or this or...? Who knows and I can't conjecture this. [Places hand on chest] It's not fair to anybody to say that, not to my community even. 'Cause I had thought that [gestures to his head] and say somebody in the community might... Uh, it's not fair and we don't know, nothing was ever told. And that's one of the bad things of this whole thing. Even this that we're doing now isn't solving it.

FL: Yeah. Mm hmm. Okay.

IT: I'm sorry to say that.

FL: So in terms of—just staying with the camp for a moment, 'cause then I'm gonna move to your, your family life without your father while he was interned.

IT: Okay.

FL: Um, do you remember your dad telling you what the worst time in the internment was? Was it, was it the jail? Or, or did he—

IT: The jail was very bad, yes. But then, uh—[shrugs]...maybe it's time to tell this—uh, he was moved from Petawawa, as ma—all of them were, who ever was left, 'cause many were released. Uh, one of the judges, uh, resigned because he, uh, was so much against this internment. And, uh, but he—there were—he did cause a lot of releases. Including my father's first because—

FL: Do you remember the judge's name or...

IT: Uh, [James Duncan] Hyndman. [Nods]

FL: Okay.

IT: A very fine man. Uh, my mother, uh, respected him very much. And there were others. There was, uh, Mercier, um...was very much against one of the, uh—of opposition, uh, members in the House of Commons had proposed to remove their citizenship. And, uh, when mother heard that she told Judge Le Mercier about it and he said, “Over my dead body, they will never do that.” [Says while shaking head] Uh, which was a good thing. So there were some, there were some good people around, uh, even in high positions. [Smiles] And they were Canadians. And, uh, so was my dad, by the way, a very good Canadian. He worked for the, the Liberal Party, which was the party of the—that interned him. [Says with an ironic laugh] Um, he, he worked for, um, them for—before the election and aft—uh, the, um, [shakes head correcting himself] arrest, rather, and after the, um, internment...uh, he continued to do so. And he was very, very, uh, very proud Canadian. Uh, my family all were and worked constantly for Canada. He received, uh, later [reaches down to his left side], uh, uh, a medal, uh, fr—the Queen Elizabeth medal [raises medal up to the camera] of 25 years of, uh, her ascendancy to the throne [places medal down to his left]. And he, uh, um, was given that for his community service, general community service, ‘cause he worked for different [gestures wide with arm], as I followed suit too in doing that, uh, not just Italian community.

FL: Uh, you were, you were I think going to give, uh, a point about what happened when some were released and then they were moved from Petawawa?

IT: Yes, they were sent to, uh—now the story was that they found uranium at Petawawa and therefore they had to remove them, but I’m not sure that is the true story and, uh, maybe we can find out. Uh, they were sent to Gagetown in New Brunswick. And, uh, that wasn’t pleasant. You were asking whether it was, uh, pleas—unpleasant thing. It was, uh, uh—there were tents and not, uh...barracks and, uh, initially. And it wasn’t, uh, comfortable in the rain and the rest of

it for a while, a few mo—a couple of months I guess. And then, uh, they did have, uh, barracks. Um...yes, and th—he spent the rest of his time—the three, the three years, uh, total three years—with—and Doctor Sabetta as well I believe, he had, uh, uh, almost the same time. He was released just a bit earlier than my dad.

[00:35:59]

FL: So was, was most of your father's time then in Gagetown? When he was interned—

IT: No...

FL: —or there was more—

IT: Uh, well I—now that's a good question and I haven't figured it out. [Smiles] Um...because if he was nine and then...we had the dates and I've forgotten them now. [Scratches head and frowns in thought]

FL: The, uh—his internment dates?

IT: Yeah. [Nods]

FL: Um...I don't...

IT: They're in the other room [points off to his left], but I... [Laughs]

FL: But, but in terms of—at what point—do you remember were you told when he was gonna go to Gagetown?

IT: No. In fact there was a, a pause in, in mail and everything else because they were allowed so many cards, uh, a month. I think two [holds up two fingers] or something. And, uh—but it didn't come and there was this fear. And then the word got out that they were being moved and the, the rumour was that a guard said, um, they're going to be shot. And, you know, as funny as that may sound today, uh, at that time it was credible. You know, war time and, uh, they were going to shoot them and—or being taken to an island, one of the, uh, um...again, one of the, uh, MP [Member of Parliament], MPs in the, uh, uh, the Parliament said, uh, "They should all be put on an island." As they did in Britain, I think. And, uh, uh, they, they weren't. They were put in Gagetown, which I don't know was better. [Laughs] Uh, uh, it, um...was, uh, a scary moment, not knowing where he was and hearing the rumours and everything else. Then finally, uh, a card came from Gagetown. And, uh...our fears were allayed. [Looks down]

FL: Before your father was moved did you get—you and your fam—your mother and your, your brother, did you get to visit?

IT: Yes, um, the—in Petawawa. Uh, we were ta—uh, uh, my brother was, uh—we—taken to, uh, visit him first. And it was my, um, dad's birthday, uh, July 1st, which my father always, uh, celebrated for the two reasons. [Laughs] And, uh, um, they brought a cake [gestures to size of cake with hands]. I remember my brother telling us, 'cause it was, from him a dramatic moment. And he was so proud to bring the cake to his father and the guard took it from Silvio and threw it on the floor and, uh, Silvio was very upset and shouted out, "That's my father's cake!" And he was all upset, they said. [Laughs] And he wasn't that kind of a kid, he was a sports guy and very, uh—but he had those sentiments anyway. And they, um...uh, he did visit him them. Then, uh...I...had the chance to visit him. [Voice begins to break with emotion] And it was a long ride from Ottawa to Petawawa; it seemed long. We were going through bushes, it was winter and, um, a lot of snow. The driver, the taxi driver, was not very, um, sympathetic

with us because he figured we were enemies or whatever, uh, until, uh—the drive was so circuitous and through bushes and through this and this and he said, “Where the hell did they put those guys! That’s a shame!” [Laughs] You know, and he was—he got very, uh, sympathetic and thought that’s not fair to put anybody, uh, you know, so far away. And, uh, cer—‘cause we were seeing deer and, uh, all kinds of animals that I was taken by; I liked to the deers, but when we—the deer rather. And when we got to, um, uh, the camp, uh, there—yes, they were—my grandmother was with us too. And there were Japanese prisoners at that time...at Petawawa. They weren’t the, the first visit that my par—my mother did. And, uh, they were all waving [waves hand] and my m-my grandmother was waving back [waves hand] and, uh, my mother said, “Don’t!” [Laughs] Fearing that that shows that we were friends of—that’s sad really when you think of it in—and my mother, uh, uh, told that story and said, “I, I feel bad about saying, ‘Don’t wave to them,’ you know.” They were innocent victims too.

FL: Mm hmm. And what do you remember about visiting your father? Or do you have—

[00:40:11]

IT: I remember, yes, that I, uh, was there and, uh, dad, uh—of course, uh, was very—I was happy to see him and everything. And I remember this incident. That my mother wanted to kiss my father and, uh, [gets emotional and voice begins to break] she asked the, uh, the guard. And they’re not supposed to you see, not supposed to touch. And he turned around and let them. [Smiles]

FL: Oh.

IT: And that remained in my...mind. So it’s v—now, as you can see. [Looks down with emotion]

FL: Mm hmm. Okay.

IT: [Looks up and smiles]

FL: Now that we're talking about your mother...what was life like...when—

IT: Uh, God bless her, she, um, she, um...was a very, um—she was a real lady. But...she took up his defense like crazy and went to the offices of the judges, barged in with, uh, Kay, uh, Costantini, who, um, was the daughter of, uh, Mr., um, Joe Costantini, who was also interned. And, um, uh, they both, uh, went in and when they weren't allowed to go in they'd barge in the office whether the secretary said you can't go in or not [smiles] and talked to the—either the judge or whoever the, uh, agent was. And, uh, it worked, um—it worked to a certain point, but, uh... [Shakes head] They, uh, the—generally they got sympathy, uh, they—but I think nobody could do anything. [Shakes head]

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: 'Cause internment operations were in charge. Uh, because mother spoke to one, uh...M-Mr., um...what was his name? I think I gave it to you. Now I've forgotten it. Uh, and he had a—uh, he was from Britain—and, uh, he had a son who was, uh, killed in the war dur—over Italy. And I can understand his feelings and he told that to my mother. And my mother, uh, sympathized and said, "That's awful, uh, but, um, you know, my, my husband was...not responsible." And, um, uh, he met them after—I'm going—I'm flipping over a lot—she promised that she would have him meet him. She said, "If you ever met him..." You know. And sh-she brought my father to him after the internment, after his release and he did say, um, "Mrs.—Mr. Tiezzi, if, if I knew you then, I—you would have been out." He said, "I wouldn't have kept..." Which was kind of nice, but, you know, after the whole ordeal... [Laughs]

FL: [Unclear]

IT: ...uh, it wasn't, uh, a solution.

FL: So how did your mother cope, other than—

IT: She, well, she fi—uh, certainly fought for his release, through the clergy, through every me-means she could. [Counts on fingers] Even with some of the agents that were hired by the government, who weren't from our community—not our [gestures to his chest], but Montreal [gestures out with hands]—uh, who were, uh, trying to get—uh, I, I [shrugs] can't go too deeply into this—but I think they were maneuvering, even allow—saying, “I'll get him out if you do this or if you pay or this or that.” There was that kind of thing going on, little skullduggery in the—uh, our own group. And that has to be said, whether we like it or not. And it's known. 'Cause I was speaking to someone in Montreal recently and they knew that. Um, now, apart from that, uh, she had to—we had to subsist and, uh, we were going to school. I was still in elementary, which was free. But my brother was going high school, uh, Catholic high school, which was exp—uh, cost and they were very good. St. Patrick's College High School allowed, uh, two years free. My brother was very bright and, and he was a good athlete and that always helps in college—in, in high schools or colleges. [Laughs] And so, um, he, um—they, they did let him for a year or two. And then, um, the-then mother, uh, the second year I think prayed because she didn't [shrugs and makes a face], she didn't want to be humiliated and say, uh—because she went to work, which was a “no-no” in, uh, those days among, especially among Italian families and say—uh, and I think generally women didn't go to work. Uh, she went—she got a job in a pie bakery, 'cause she couldn't get anywhere else. Um, and worked there for eight dollars a week. Uh, no, she wasn't getting unemployment insurance, she fought for that and got it after. But, um...interesting enough, uh, on her deathbed I saw [looks down to his right and gets emotional]...the burns and her hand—on her arms [gestures to his arms as voice breaks] from the bakery. That, uh—and I realized what she went through for us...and him. In the meantime

my grandmother, his mother, wrote to him and said, “Your wife has a job.” And he was very upset. She was—he was—she wasn’t supposed to work. [Laughs] And so mother did write to him and say, “How are we to subsist?” You know. And so he did accept that, he had to come to that realization and give up that old fashion thinking. And she did so well that she saved up, that when he came out, uh, it, it was very helpful to the whole family. Yeah.

FL: So was it—I think you had mentioned once before, was there another job then after the bakery? Did she—

[00:45:52]

IT: Yes, after she, um—uh, towards the end of his internment, I think, uh, she got a job in the government. Uh...yeah, in the civil service, we called it. And, uh, so did her sister, my aunt joined after. But the number eight building on the end of Preston Street [gestures to his right], which is here in Ottawa, which is now called *Corso Italia* si—uh, nickname and in memory of the real Little Italy that existed ‘cause very few people live there now—[gestures to Francesca] you do, but... [Laughs] And it is, um, uh—yeah, it’s certainly a nice place now, uh, they would love it. But anyway, to get back to, uh, um...

FL: Your mother and—

IT: Yes—

FL: —her working—

IT: —uh, working at number eight building. Uh, a very interesting thing happened. [Pause] She was, uh, taking care of files and placing them, uh, it wasn’t, uh, an onerous job, but... And she

saw, one of the files was, “The Internment” [points of name on files with finger and laughs], uh, uh, of, you know, of, of people of Ottawa and [unclear]. And she didn’t open them [shakes head], but she put them [gestures to filing] and then she—it, it made her—it certainly gave her, uh, a sensation.

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: And it is interesting because here’s the husband interned and the wife’s working in the government that could handle the same file. [Laughs and shrugs] It shows our, um, innocence in a way, the Canadian, uh, experience. We, we weren’t, uh, ready, uh, weren’t sophisticated in, in the whole thing. And so from that point of view, even my dad accepted the internment, saying, “I can understand, uh, their fear.” Uh, not knowing, they weren’t ready for it and not being in a... Uh, he loved Canada so much. Well he stayed. We, we could have all gone after that. Uh, he loved it and, uh, proved it, uh, often. Uh, but he still had that, uh, connection—uh, uh, the affection [gestures to his head] for his, uh, culture and his background. And retained his accent right to the very end, but Tuscans are known for that. [Laughs] So are Scots by the way. [Holds hand up to mouth while speaking and then laughs]

FL: [Chuckles] Okay. Now before we move to, you know, your—when your father was released, what would you say though for the time period that your dad was interned and your mum, you know, was trying to both lobby for his release, lawyers and make money to support, uh, was there from, you know, even your recollection after, um, or, or having spoken to your mother after, what was the worst for her in terms of that? Did she ever speak about a really difficult—was the whole thing very difficult? Or—

IT: Yes it was ‘cause, uh, even the, the incident of the lawyer [gestures with hand] and getting the bill, uh, of 2000 dollars—in those days that was an enormous amount. And, uh, uh, I

remember both she and my grandmother weeping and, uh, crying out loud really, uh, saying, you know, “How can we do this? We can’t do it?” And they would have to get a lawyer against the lawyer. [Laughs] Anyway, I was, uh, very—I was there and I was very upset by this, to see them both crying like that. And I had been promised a wagon, uh, a little wagon, and, uh, I shouted out, “I don’t want the wagon!” [Says while shaking head] You know. They both ran to me and hugged me and said, “You’re going to get the wagon.” [Says with emotion and shrugs] And I didn’t do that deliberately, I [laughs]...didn’t—I wasn’t cry-crying on their feelings. But, uh, I did get that noisy wagon, ‘cause the no rubber wheels [motions to wheels turning] ‘cause it was a victory wagon, they called. And I loved the noise. You [laughs], you go around the, the whole [laughs], disturbing all the neighbours with it. Uh...there were moments, yes, there were some very, uh, uh—she wanted to sell the house at one point because, uh, the money wasn’t there. Um, and, uh, all the neighbours came and said, “Don’t, don’t sell it.” Uh, you know, and then she didn’t and was able to scrape up with her job and, and also [rubs chest and hits lapel mike], uh, my grandmother a little bit of help. Uh, well, also, interestingly enough, I just thought of this recently ‘cause I wondered how did they make out. There were some workers from Toronto that were coming here to do jobs; they were night workers. So they worked during the night and they needed to sleep during the day. Any m—our room, my brother and I had a room together, uh, what my par—uh, my mother and grandmother did, they changed the sheets, let them sleep, uh, during the day, we had to keep quiet [brings finger up to lips] and everything, and they paid, uh, money and board, ‘cause they ate there too. And they made some money that way. And I had not thought of that the last interview I gave you and, uh, I remembered afterwards. ‘Cause I, I questioned, How, how did they... That helped, it helped. [Nods] So every little way they could they, they did it. And we had some help, as I said, uh, the, um, uh...the butcher, um, put off the payments, we could pay later whenever we had the money. The, uh, uh—these were three brothers, the Chiarelli brothers, um...well known family in Ottawa, for sports, for politics, for whatever. [Says while holding up three fingers] And, uh, the, the other [gestures behind in with thumb] brother was a barber and a hairdresser and he did her hair

and, uh, cut our hair for nothing. And, uh, that was very helpful. And then the, uh, other one, uh, tried very hard with Judge Anderson, was the named of the Judge I was trying to remember before. And, uh, he would go to Judge Anderson and try [makes face] different ways to help, um, uh, my dad get out. Uh, unsuccessfully, but he tri—gave it a good shot.

[00:52:00]

FL: Now just, uh, I, I did want to move to when your dad, um, was released. But just as the Car—uh, Chiarelli story that you wanted to tell in terms of—

IT: Oh yeah.

FL: —the absence of your father and—

IT: Uh, good. During the period that he was rel—uh, in, in June 1940 to February I guess, uh, when he was re-interned, well, um, Mr. Eugenio Chiarelli, the father of, of Bob, uh, Chiarelli, who was, um...uh, regional head, uh, he was mayor of Ottawa and he's now a, the MPP [Member of Provincial Parliament] and Minister of Infrastructure for the government of Ontario. [Says while counting on fingers] Uh, that, uh—my fath—Mr. Chiarelli, the father, wanted my father to be his godfather. And the, the baptism took place and, uh, but my dad wa—had been re-interned. So Mr. Chiarelli got my brother Silvio to, um, stand in for him, he was proxy, and, uh, he was only 13 years old. [Smiles] And, uh...he was there and my mother was the godmother and, uh, I have the picture, I don't know if I show it now or...

TT: You can show it now and then we can also—

IT: [Holds photograph up to camera] And can you get it?

TT: Yeah. We can do a close-up later.

IT: Oh alright. [Places photograph back down to his left] And, uh, he, um...yes, uh, so, uh, uh, Bob did not know about this picture because very few people had cameras in those days [laughs] and, uh, when you did have one you got dressed up to get a picture, you couldn't just take one the way I'm doing right now. [Gestures to himself and laughs] Anyway, uh, yeah, he, um...then later, I found out just recently, that Silvio was godfather to the last brother, the, the youngest one. Who passed away by the way. But, uh, yeah. Now I was going to tell you, because we're talking about Silvio and...

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: ...in relation to the internment, my brother, um, uh—I remember when he was coming—uh, they were releasing him. And all the family was saying, “Oh, he's gonna see a difference in Silvio!” You know because he was only 11 when he was interned and then he was 14, and you do change in those years. [Makes hand gesture to indicate change] Unfortunately, you should have your father with you if possible, but anyway. Uh, and I remember them measuring—you know how we used to do in [holds both hands above his head]—uh, you don't remember, but anyway—uh, we'd measure ourselves against the wall with a pencil [has one hand over his head and gestures to making mark on wall with pencil with the other hand] and see how much we grew. And of course I hadn't grown that much, but Silvio had. [Nods] And they were all saying that he's not going to recog—well I was hoping, I kept measuring every day [gestures to marking height on wall] hoping that [laughs] I, I too would be a little taller. Uh, anyway, uh, yes, uh, I was gonna tell you about the, um...I've forgotten now what I was—

FL: Silvio and...

IT: [Looks up at Francesca]

FL: ...and, and sort of that Silvio had changed or—

IT: That Silvio had changed, yeah, and I—well I had too, but not as much. And, uh, I didn't—I was trying to remember him because it was hard to know what he gonna look like and, uh—well I got used to him very easily after [laughs] he came back. And we were very, um—it was, it was nice, it was nice to be together again.

[00:55:28]

FL: Did you know he was gonna be released? Or was it—were you—

IT: Yes, I remember that too. Uh, this, this agent they had, not a nice man at all [says while shaking his head], Mr. [Augusto] Bersani—I don't mind saying his name. He's dead too, I guess. Uh, he, um, uh, was trying in different ways to, uh, get my mother to implicate other people, uh, especially the Apostolic Delegate. Uh, uh...that's a true—I think everybody knows this...uh, anybody who's interested in this ca—this sort of thing. There was an attempt to get that man, um, Antonutti[?], uh, interned. And, uh, she was asked to sign a letter that, that my dad was getting orders from him to...release him—uh, to, um [shakes head correcting himself]...uh, yes, uh, t-to getting orders, uh, and if, if my mom did sign that my dad would be released. And she said definitely not. Two reasons, one [counts on fingers], that means my father was guilty of something, and two, uh, he, uh—to implicate a person without...that's, that's sinful. [Shakes his head and says with a pained expression] She said, "He can stay the rest of his life in the camp. I would never do that." And—so that was an attempt—but that same man is the one that phoned my mother on September the 8th, which was when my mother's birthday and also the date of the, um, uh, surrender, Italy's unconditional surrender, uh, and they released all—any

prisoners that were left. And he phoned my mother. I remember she was waxing the floor and I always wanted to shine, but she wouldn't let me. But anyway [laughs]—uh, by slipping on it; I—my friends would all be doing that with st-stockinged feet. And, uh, anyway, the phone rang and it was one of those funny phones with the [gestures to using a hand-cranked telephone], you know. And she lifted it up, I remember in the, the dining area, and she, uh—and it was—I remember the happy look on her face and sh—“Thank you, thank you,” and everything [smiles]. And she turned to me and said, “Your dad is coming home.” [Voice begins to crack with emotion] And we were really happy about that. And it was Mr. Bersani, the guy that—so he was an agent that was [shakes head]...not very nice. And he—she asked about him to one of the judges and said, “Why do you use a man like that?” [Shrugs] And he said, “We use a dirty broom to clean the stable,” or something like that, some...silly thing like that. [Smiles, while appearing very emotional]

FL: So the time—your dad's been released now, so...does he go back to his job?

IT: No—uh, good question too. Uh, no, they—most of them were refused their job. Uh, anybody who was interned did not get their job back. 'Cause he was up for a promotion too. And his boss was very, uh, sympathetic. And, uh, so he had to get all kinds of...menial jobs before—uh, he did tile setting with my uncle, but even before that he, he was cleaning toilets at, uh, a leather factory somewhere. And, uh, he, he never was one day unemployed; uh, he did not want to be unemployed, it was too humiliating. Even these jobs were better than being unemployed and then ultimately he went to, um...yeah, uh, uh, I found out, I was just a kid, but I found out that the lady across the street, Mrs. Boccino, was going sell the store, she was, uh, elderly. And, um, I told them—I remember sitting on the veranda and saying, “Uh, you should buy that store.” I didn't know if they could or not. But mother had put away, uh, a good amount of money for him, 7000 dollars, which was sufficient to, uh, purchase the store, uh, not totally, but, uh, it, it—she was—they were able to buy it. And they did. And then, interestingly enough,

the boss of the Ottawa Electric—who's a nice man 'cause my parents worked for him during the elections he was running—uh, [Thomas Franklin] Frank Ahearn was his name, a very well-known name in Ottawa—and he, uh, visited my dad at the store and said, “You're better off here, than at the job.” You know. I don't know if that's true or not. But I didn't mention one of the bad things of, uh, one—uh, uh, uh, this—something came in my mind recently...that the internment was...not horrible. It certainly didn't compare to what happened in Europe or things of that nature. I don't want to elaborate [holds hands out to the side] and make it worse. Uh, but the separation was very bad [holds hands apart to indicate separation]...um, the, uh, the not being able to take care of yourself. But one of the sorrows of the internment that I have and th-that they must have had too was the fact that...a, a tragedy that occurred to us later, 1950. My brother was killed in a car-train accident, he was a passenger in a, in a car after a softball tournament and he was with his best friend and they both were killed. Um...they both died as a result of that accident. And...that...meant—those three years [holds up three fingers] became more precious for my father—for me too—because it means that he didn't have him...he only had him for 18 years. Uh, an-and my fath—brother only had him for three years le...less than his—again for 18 years. And, um...that's sad because, uh, he was my father's pride and joy, uh, he was the first born and he was going to get his BA [Bachelor of Arts] that year that he died in and, um, he was looking forward—that was the culmination and—of his, uh, life really. I came next and I think I filled in a bit. He, he didn't—he was happy with my getting a BA; I think I had to [laughs]; by hook or by crook I had to do that. Um, but, uh...yeah, so little things like that sometimes are, uh—even I had [voice breaks] been oblivious of that and I only thought it out recently, saying, “That was three years out of...”

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: “...that they could have enjoyed.”

[01:01:48]

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: Um...then we bought the store and, um...yup.

FL: Did your, did your dad—I know you mentioned earlier that they, they would talk, you know, with other internees and they would refer to the time as “the college” and—

IT: Yes, they referred to it, uh, jokingly as well, but, uh, uh, it’s true that, uh, there was a—they didn’t want to say “jail,” uh, or “internment camp,” uh, so they would refer it as “college.” And they giggle about it too. And they would tell stories, uh, the things, humourous things that happened or, uh, somebody that was, uh, punished because the guy had a newspaper and that’s when Mr. Costantini lost the, the kitchen for awhile [laughs], until they all, uh, objected. And, uh, they, they did live, um—at least they were...uh, there was some camaraderie and, uh, they were, uh—yeah, they, they had, uh—they were taken care of. The Red Cross was very good and dad was always very happy with the Salvation Army, um, because they did, uh, visit them and give them something, nothing great, but it was...comforting to them to know that these, uh, entities were interested in prisoners, uh, and they were I guess all over the world.

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: And that was, uh, one of the nice things.

FL: Do you remember the date of your dad’s release? I know you said September 8th you got the—

IT: September 8th, uh—

FL: —phone call and was that also—

IT: [Nods] That was the date of the release.

FL: [Unclear]

IT: Yes.

FL: Okay.

IT: Yeah.

FL: And how did your—I mean, you mentioned that your father got back to work. And how did he feel about the fact that he didn't get the electric job—

IT: I think he was very disappointed in that. Uh, yeah, that was hurtful. Again, somebody...[shrugs] the suggestion is that there were people that said he shouldn't, uh, and everything. But I think there was a policy among several because they didn't for the, uh, firemen for, uh [gestures with hand]—he was gonna be a chief and everything. But, uh—so I guess it was generally they didn't accept them. That was not fair because that was after the fact and, uh—

FL: They, they were never charged with anything. Your father—

IT: Never charged with anything, never, um...no.

FL: Hmm. Okay. And, um, how was, how—just to go back a sec—did you get any support from the outside community when your father was interned? Your mother went to work, but did the—

IT: Do you mean—

FL: —Italian community—I know you mentioned the Chiarelli's, but—

IT: —financial support? No.

FL: Uh...

IT: No.

FL: Okay, no. Okay

IT: But there was, uh, support, uh, moral support, definitely. [Nods]

FL: Okay.

IT: Yes. And, uh, uh, I don't think there was anyone who stopped talking to us or anything in that way. I think initially yes, that the very fir—few da—for a week or two no one talked to anybody. There was complete hush [gestures with hands to indicate no talking] and fear, uh, through the whole community. [Shakes head] They really didn't talk to each other. Uh, we'd see them walking and nobody'd talk, uh, yeah.

FL: Hmm.

IT: And then it, uh—it's not because—they all had to report, you know that, very unfair thing, because this is not just about my father and about—it's about the entire community. They were all considered enemy aliens [says "enemy aliens" with emphasis]. And as I said they weren't aliens, they all had their li—certificate [holds up naturalization certificate to the camera] and they, uh, were not, uh, uh—they, they were British subjects, as I—we were. And then they, uh—certainly not enemies. There was never an incident that I know of and that—and people who have researched this, uh, of a threat to the government, uh, no violence, no, uh, suggested, uh, overthrowing of the government or anything like that. N-no speech against it, by any of these people, any of these fellows. Uh, there were some fanatics in the camp; there was one that stayed to the very end yelling, "*E viva il Duce!*" But mentally disturbed [twirls fingers in a finger near side of head] my father said. And, uh, uh, that can happen; it happens in every culture, in every race [laughs], in every political scene. But, uh, I, I feel very bad that that happened, uh, to an entire community, uh, and that's why I say, "Let us hope it doesn't happen again." Um...t-to have them all go and report, even those born here, uh, and, and have—be fingerprinted [motions to getting fingerprints taken] and report—they didn't think—they weren't sophisticated enough to think of surveillance or, or, you know, just keeping somebody, even if they were suspicious of someone, watch them and see if anything happens. We weren't, we weren't up to that then. I hope we are now. And that's one of the reasons I'm speaking because otherwise I wouldn't like to rehash this in my old age. I'm suffering it over again. Uh, when, um, uh, I—we were—we handled it, my parents handled it, w-we had good times, trips and things and lo—uh, you know, were involved in the community, uh, the entire community, not just the Italian community and we, um, uh, lived through it and to, to rehash it is hurtful. Uh, but if it serves a, a purpose...

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: ...I'd be very happy.

[01:07:20]

FL: Um, now you also mentioned when you mentioned that the medal, so your father then, despite the work situation, they bought a business, that's how your family went on financially. Um, before he was interned he was very involved in community activities, inside and outside the Italian community?

IT: [Nods]

FL: Did that [Italo rubs lapel microphone]...come back, I mean—

IT: Yes, it came back with the store believe it or not because then we got a post office. And the post office was essential to It—to immigrants because they were communicating [gestures back and forth with hands] with their families, bringing them over, all this or everything. And of course our store became—not only our store, several on Preston Street—became like, um, uh, social agencies. And they would come for, uh, interpreting. I would have to interpret in court with—for some people. Um, these were im—we were very pleased to help the, uh, new immigrants that came. Uh, and they, um—yes, dad became very involved in that. He started the citizenship club; he got—was responsible for making 2000, uh, Italian Cana—Italians, Canadian citizens. Uh, he worked with Judge Tardiff, who was the immigration judge then. And, uh, he—'cause they were reticent to do it 'cause they didn't speak the language, they didn't... So dad got a school, I helped, and Lina C[?], um, she, uh, took over, uh, under the church we'd teach them English and answering these questions and the rest of it. [Smiles] Uh, it got that some of the immigrants just went to, uh, the judge and said, "I know Mr. Tiezzi"—my father that is—and, and that did it. [Laughs] It was...you know, and, and they were so pleased and I, I didn't

bring the pictures of that; I have pictures of that too. The Ladies Aid helped with the reception and everything. So dad organized all that after—you're asking about after the internment.

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: He, he certainly was very involved afterwards. He started the senior citizens group, the Italian Canadian citizen—uh, senior citizens group; I helped him out that, my mom did too. Uh, and he was very, um—the first president and very, very, um, uh, active in that. It's still going on, it's one of the most successful organizations in the community. [Pauses and smiles] 'Cause there are more senior citizens than they used to be. [Laughs]

FL: So in terms of your father then, how did he feel about—I, I think I know at one point you mentioned he didn't really talk about it. I know they talked amongst themselves, but—

IT: I think they stopped talking about it after my brother's death. 'Cause I, I remember saying that to you and I, I thought, Well why did I say that? And then I—and when did this happen? [Shrugs] After my brother's death that other thing was gone, it was not, uh, important and not, uh—it was passé. But, um, uh...he, um—they handled it. Uh, they nev—he never denied it. In fact when they went to the States my, uh—his brother-in-law, uh, was telling everyone, "You know he was interned!" [Laughs and points with finger] Dad said, "Do you have to say that?!" You know, "You don't have to tell everybody." Uh, but almost bragging about it and, uh, in a sense I understand that too.

[01:10:32]

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: Uh...but, uh, yeah, no they, they handled it alright. They, they were—they got over it, if that's we're saying, yeah. [Nods] I think I [points to himself] held it a little longer. I, uh—maybe this is helping me because I'm releasing and thinking things out and saying, "Okay, don't get too upset even with the government for doing it." I just think it's wrong that a government will turn on its own citizens, um...without giving them the benefit of a trial, which they give to thieves and murderers [gestures to his right with hands], that's what I'm saying. And not to a person who [shakes head]—and there's no charge, no nothing, you can't defend yourself. I can't even now say, "No, my father was this or wasn't." That's not fair to anybody to...it was wrong.

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: Uh, and I'm stopping there, it was wrong. I'm not saying they shouldn't have done it or they did it wrong or whatever, I'm saying it was wrong.

FL: Hmm, mm hmm.

IT: And, uh, obviously it means they could have done something else.

FL: Mm hmm. And how would—

IT: If they knew better. They didn't know better.

FL: And why do you think it stayed with you a little bit longer?

IT: Because we, um, uh—well, uh, missing my dad, uh, uh, taking him away from his family and, uh, then my brother having—that story I just told you—um, a-and also him. Uh, you know, he wasn't guilty in my mind. And, uh, they, um—he didn't get a chance to prove it and, uh, that bothers me. And my dad, uh, forgave that, said, "You know, it was war and, uh, you know..."

FL: So that was your father's attitude?

IT: Yeah.

FL: Alright.

IT: He, he rationalized it and God bless him because he was at peace. Uh, good for him, he handled that better than I did. Uh, not that I went against, I didn't cause any [laughs] stir or do anything. It just bothered me and I would have liked, not necessarily an apology, 'cause I'm ready to forgive...what they did...and I'm ready saying now, I'm forgiving them for what they did. Um, whether they apologize or not means nothing 'cause that's true of human relations...

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: ...an apology [makes face and shakes head]...could mean nothing if you didn't mean it, you know. Uh, and I know why the money bit and the rest are afraid. Um...even this what, where they're doing now...at least there is a recognition...

FL: Mm hmm.

IT: ...and that makes me happy about it. Uh, the recognition.

FL: So in terms of your father, you know, he forgave them so the issue of compensation of some kind—

IT: Never crossed their mind. [Shakes head]

FL: Okay.

IT: Never crossed—and in fact when it happened for the Japanese my mother said, “I would never accept that, uh, you know, it’s not, uh...20 000 or whatever it is.” [Shakes head] But I do remember—and I don’t know if you know about this—but the, the CBC [Canadian Broadcast Corporation] has done a whole, uh, very interesting—I have the cassette, on the little tiny cassettes [demonstrates thickness of cassette with fingers] and I—uh, uh, about this and it was fascinating. If you don’t have it, I’ll give it to you. And, uh...it, it was haphazard, it was—there was no rhyme or reason, um...it, it was wrong in that respect too. They were not ready...for a war, I guess, and they had to show that, uh, “We’re doing something.” We’re—we—a clean sweep of, you know, whatever. In a—I guess, I—this is all conjecture on my part. But where was I going with this? They, um—uh, there was a shoemaker in Nova Scotia who was interned and he said, “Yes, I want money. I want two dollars.” [Smiles] They used to have the two dollar bill then. And he said, “I want to frame it and put it on my wall. The government gave this to me because they interned me.” [Chuckles while gesturing to framing money and placing on the wall] And it was an interesting thing ‘cause I thought, Why money, you know? Because money means something to our society, it means you paid for it; you paid something for what you did. And it, it, it’s a symbol of payment, uh...which I don’t like, but it is important in, in the capitalistic society, right. [Pauses] Or any. I think [laughs]...the communists would accept it and have accepted it...as well.

FL: Hmm.

IT: And that’s interesting because it brings up, um, the feelings, uh, during the time—you were asking earlier, if I can bring it up again. Uh, there were those that were sympathetic towards the fascist government, that is Mussolini and all the—because the Italian immigrants at that time

were very, um...humble and very, uh, not, um...feeling...that good about themselves. But fascism sort of made them feel good, uh, *si fanno sentire*, they were, they were, uh, a-allowing themselves to be felt, to be seen. In fact the French Canadians on the street would come out and yell out, "*Les Italiens, les Italiens!*," when the band would come down, 'cause the Italians were coming down and that made—gave them a feeling. Now it had nothing to do with the politics, it had to do with the, uh, oom-pah-pah and the, uh, uh, you know, the, the, uh, being proud of marching and maybe wearing the white uniforms, which could have been fascistic or not, who knows, and, uh, probably was. Uh, the, um, uh, the different feelings—nothing was illegal, by the way, at that time. It wasn't even illegal to make the fascist salute or to sing a song or anything 'ca—which is often, uh, mentioned. Uh, they sang, uh, they sang mostly songs from the First World War, when Italy was on the Allied side of course.

[01:16:11]

FL: Hmm.

IT: And, um, uh, they sounded fascistic because they military, but they weren't. The only fascist songs that were sung, uh, were, uh, *Giovinazza*, which was, uh...the...anthem, one of the anthems—they had two [holds up two fingers], the royal anthem and, and that one. And the other was *Faccetta Nera*, which is a kind of racist song, uh, "little black face of Abyssinia." And, um, uh, not a—the, the music's cute, but, uh, the words, "We're gonna bring you a new king, a new leader," and all this, uh...what do you call that, uh, empire st-stuff. And, um...th—so they did, uh, that, but, uh, it wasn't, uh, a movement to undo Canadian society. In fact Mussolini wrote—and I don't have the book anymore, it was—they, they did send some books for—to learn Italian. Uh, the *Voce D'Italia*, was the name of it. And in it, uh, they said all the great artists and, uh, saints and everybody of Italy and everything, and then a little message [holds fingers a few inches apart] from Mussolini. And, and in it, it said—and I was impressed by this—

“Uh, to the Italian Americans...” — ‘cause it was [unclear] and meant especially for—uh, he didn’t even realize [gestures with hands] I think the different—uh, uh, to, um...uh, honour the, the government of the new country, to behave as good citizens, to give Italians a good name in their country [unclear]. So it was all positive stuff that nobody could object to, uh, by—said by this man who became [makes a face and shrugs] the dictator we didn’t like, really. And, um, uh, that’s another story and I’m not gonna end up, uh, apologizing, uh, for him or, or condemning him either, that’s up to the historians. And, and they’ve done it [laughs] and it’s okay...with me.

FL: So any final thoughts? So anything that you, you would like to...

IT: I, uh, I’m—I like the term final thoughts because that’s what I’d like them to be. [Laughs] And I want to get on with my life and enjoy the rest of my retirement. Uh, having, uh, shared this with you if it was of any interest, uh, I’m sure to some it will be, um, I hope I haven’t, um...mis...guided anybody, uh, on this or, or, or hurt any-anybody. I don’t think I have. Uh, I, I like the idea of, um...it being recorded—not necessarily me—uh, but the fact and the story, as best as it can. ‘Cause history is that way, uh, it’s up to the reader or the listener to interpret it as...that’s what history does. Uh, uh, and it doesn’t—can’t force anybody to think one way or another and neither is my, my purpose. My purpose was to let you hear my thoughts and I hope they were really were my thoughts, ‘cause sometimes we don’t convey [laughs] it well enough. Our brains, especially at my age [laughs], aren’t going—isn’t going to, uh, do the job.

FL: Okay, thank you. Now I’m not sure if, if maybe—‘cause you have a number of photographs, some of them you refer to whether—I know we’re gonna take close-ups...

TT: Mm hmm.

FL: ...but whether or not, um, if you want to just hold each photograph up [Italo moves forward in his chair to pick up photographs] and just if there's a story that you want to tell that you haven't told maybe—

IT: Okay.

FL: —record what this is. And—

IT: Now, I don't know wh—how to do this. [Moves in chair and holds photograph up to the camera]

FL: Well, we'll, we'll do a close-up after?

TT: Sure.

FL: Okay, so just—

IT: [Turns photograph showing group of internees and points at an internee] Now, this is my father...with his inmates. [Chuckles]

FL: Okay. So this is from Petawawa?

IT: [Puts photograph down] In Petawawa.

FL: Okay.

[01:20:03]

IT: Yeah, he was number 191. Doctor Sabetta was 190. I was told that by his, uh, relative. Ah, when he was in the camp, um, he had a little, a boat made by a merchant marine, um, who they were stopped in the middle of the ocean and, and interned. Uh, they weren't military, but they were merchant marine. And he made this boat and he made it throughout—the details aren't visible here—but he made it with, uh, the little round, you know, where the shoelace goes in the shoes? The—there's—those were the portholes and he had all—whatever he could get. [Holds up photograph of himself as a boy holding a boat] And that's me. I was about nine, I guess—or eight or nine 'cause, uh, uh—holding it. [Puts down photograph] And, uh...

FL: So you no longer have that boat?

IT: No, my mother threw it out and I, uh, liked it very much. But, uh, uh, she wo—she didn't want reminders and it was a dust collector she used to s—my mother was a very practical person. And, uh, I, I really have learned a lot in my old age, after she's gone, I'm thinking, She was right! She was right about this, she was right that! [Smiles] You know, she could close the book and say, "Okay, that's it." And she saw it—she put it in the, the, uh, in the garbage and a, a man came by and picked it up and she was happy somebody got it and he liked it and took it away. [Smiles while camera zooms out] It was named *Rosina* after her. [Looks down to pick up another photograph] Uh...now some of the activities [holds photograph up to camera]—this was a, a kindergarten that, uh, my grandmother, his mother [points to woman in photograph], and Mrs., um—[turns photograph around to look at it and points to a different person] oh, I pointed the wrong one there, my grandmother—and Mrs. Mancini. They, um, uh, ran this little kindergarten and it was interesting 'cause I was there with my brother, and we had toys, the Montessori toys, which [shakes head while smiling] other Canadian kids didn't have. See this, the government of Italy sent them. [Gestures with hand] So there's another attachment, some of the things they did. It was innocent enough...but...then people started saying [gestures to head], "Ah-ha!" You know. [Chuckles] Uh, and we were being taught either Italian or whatever

they taught us then...mathematics, everything. [Picks up another photograph and displays it for the camera] Now here's one of the activities my father did, was, uh [camera zooms into photograph], he was manager [turns photograph to look at it and then points to his father]...he's over here on this side—uh, with, uh, a softball team and there were several he had. [Puts down photograph] And then they had a band—

FL: Was that before he was interned? [Speaking at the same time as Italo]

IT: Uh...and what else did I have? I think that's it. Then this is the family after his release with the store in the background. [Holds photograph up to camera and camera zooms in] And, um...yup. That's the year before my brother was [camera zooms out and Italo breathes heavily]...my brother died in the accident. [Looks a camera with emotion and smiles]

FL: And that was it, so you had the [unclear]. Okay.

IT: [Looks down to photographs by his side] Was there something else?

FL: Was there one more photograph? The, the one under that one? Oh no, that was the baptism.

IT: That was—I brought that out before.

FL: The baptism, yes, yes.

IT: Uh, the Chiarellis. Yeah.

FL: And just the one with the softball team, was that, uh, before the internment? That was one of the...

IT: [Nods] It was before the internment.

FL: Okay.

IT: That's right. I think there was something after, but it, it changed. It was Gala, Gala Bakery.
The same guys... [Laughs]

FL: Different.

IT: Uh, yeah, it was no longer—uh, this, this was an Italian thing, uh, [unclear]. And, uh...yup.

FL: And just the other—we're going to take a close-up of the drawing—

IT: Okay.

FL: —the story about the drawing and how you—how—did your father talk about—

IT: Yeah, there were—that was done by [Guido] Casini, uh, of—he was well known in, in, uh,
Montreal and, and did the John Cabot, uh, the Giovanni Caboto, uh, monument in, in Montreal
and, uh, quite a few other things too. Uh, but [holds up one finger]...Guido Nincheri also did
some of these, but not my dad's. Guido was a friend of my dad's and, uh, they were Tuscan and
they knew each other and that's where Guido told that story—uh, did I tell that today? About—
Yeah. [Nods]

FL: [Unclear] plaque. Uh, about the—

[Camera zooms in]

IT: Yeah.

FL: —the—yes, the fifth column.

IT: Mm hmm.

FL: Hmm, okay. And did your father explain why this was done in the camp? Like why were these drawings—just is it to pass the time or was it...

IT: A, a souvenir, I guess. A souvenir of the, uh...

FL: Okay. Alright, thank you.

IT: [Smiles]

FL: Thank you very much.

IT: You're welcome. Thank you.

[Fades out at 01:24:24]

[Fades in at 01:24:25 with camera focused on charcoal portrait of Gino Tiezzi created by Guido Casini]

FL: —light reflection?

TT: No, it's coming in.

FL: Good, good. [Long pause] Now I forgot to ask your da—you mentioned your dad was very thin going into the internment camp. Was he as thin—

IT: He was very thin, uh, in the prison, he really was thin.

FL: Okay.

IT: And you see he developed an ulcer.

FL: Oh, see that's—I, I—

IT: [Unclear]

FL: —I was, I was gonna ask you about that and then—

IT: Yeah, I think it was there—

[Fades out at 01:24:48]

[Fades in at 01:24:49 with camera focused on documents and photographs on a chair]

FL: —first mentioned the boat—

IT: And it was very nice, all very detailed, you know, with the [unclear] And, but it did collect dust, I guess. She did that even with, uh, uh, a doll that she had [unclear] And the same with, uh, the wedding dress, she said, "That's enough now."

[Fades out at 01:25:06]

[Fades in at 01:25:07 with camera focused in on photograph of grandmother and kindergarten class]

[Fades out at 01:25:13]

[Fades in at 01:25:14 with camera focused on family photograph in front of grocery store]

TT: And what was the name of the family grocery store?

FL: Oh...that's a good question. [Chuckles]

[Fades out at 01:25:24]

[Fades in at 01:25:25 with camera focused on photograph of internees at internment camp]

IT: —it has the, um, uh, the Italian flag on one side and what used to be the Canadian flag, the—

[Fades out at 01:25:33]

[Fades in at 01:25:34 with camera focused on photograph of baseball team]

IT: —Prince Humbert and, uh, um, what's her name, of Belgium—

[Fades out at 01:25:38]

[Fades in at 01:25:40 with camera focused on photograph of Rosina Tiezzi and Silvio Tiezzi at baptism]

IT: —and my dad did at the Chateau Laurier.

FL: Oh wow.

IT: And it was very elegant and they had the big long [unclear]. And, uh, the—

[Fades out at 01:25:46]

[Fades in at 01:25:47 with camera focused in on medal]

IT: —banquet because the Consul ultimately praised him. And he also—

[Fades out at 01:25:52]

[Fades in at 01:25:53 with camera focused on Certificate of Naturalization]

IT: [Unclear]

FL: Uh, one final question 'cause Travis reminded me. What—the name of your father's—uh, that—your family's store?

IT: It had different names.

FL: Oh.

IT: Uh, it once was Tiezzi Provisions Store. That's the one I'm using—I used on the sign that—

FL: Ah!

IT: —the arrow that I, uh—

FL: Oh, okay.

IT: —purchased there, uh, because my brother, uh, gave that name. Otherwise it was Tiezzi [unclear], um—

FL: Was there a sign?

IT: Yeah.

FL: Actual. And, and did it actually change? Was it—

IT: We changed it...

FL: Like when you said it was Tiezzi—



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IT: At once it was—yeah, 'cause we re-redid the store. Um...

[Fades out at 01:26:30]

[End of interview]