

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

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NAME OF INTERVIEWEE: Dino Di Maurizio, Mary Gasbarini & Mario Lorito

NAME OF INTERVIEWER: Ernesto Virgulti & Sarah Cozzi

NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER: Spencer Johnston

TRANSCRIBED BY: Lisa Kadey

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PROJECT NOTE:

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

ABSTRACT

Mary Gasbarini, Dino Di Maurizio, and Mario Lorito discuss life in St. Catharines as Italian Canadians during the Second World War. Dino and Mary were the children of Gabriele Di Maurizio, who was interned for two years during the war. Mario later became Gabriele's son-in-law. Gabriele was born in Italy, where he worked with the Italian police force. He then immigrated to Canada with his wife where he worked as a labourer on the Welland Canal. He was instrumental in organizing the St. Catharines chapter of the Sons of Italy. Gabriele was arrested in 1940 when the family was sitting down for dinner. The police searched his home and found an Italian flag in his closet. He was told that he had to come with them. His wife and children were able to visit him while he was held in Toronto, but not after he was transferred to Petawawa. Gabriele reported to his wife that he was interrogated and asked if he was willing to fight for Canada. After he came back, he had a lot of difficulty finding a job, because he had to disclose that he was in the camp for two years. Dino and Mary say that this incident still

troubles them. Dino in particular believes that there should have been compensation for the two years that their father was interned.

INTERVIEW

DDM: Dino Di Maurizio, interviewee

MG: Mary Gasbarini, interviewee

ML: Mario Lorito, interviewee

EV: Ernesto Virgulti, interviewer

SC: Sarah Cozzi, interviewer

SJ: Spencer Johnston, videographer

[Title screen]

[Fades in at 00:00:10]

[Dog barking throughout audio recording]

DDM: My name is Dino Di Maurizio, the son of Gabriele and Francesca Di Maurizio. I was born in St. Catharines, December the 8th, 1934.

MG: Oh. And I'm Mary Gasbarini. I was a Di Maurizio, and I was born in St. Catharines, and, uh—October the 19th, 1925, long time ago. [Laughter]

ML: I'm Mario Lorito, and I'm Gabriele's son-in-law. I was born in St. Catharines on July 14th, 1925.

EV: Okay. Can you tell us about Gabriele, uh, where he was born, what year, and when he came to Canada?

DDM: Well, I, I don't know too much about that. Maybe my eldest sister would know more in that line of—

MG: I think he was born in Autre (?). I'm not sure.

ML: [Nods] Casalini Autre (?).

MG: Cas—oh, Casali (?), okay. And, uh [Shrugs], that's as far as I know. He was in the, the, uh, police force in Italy. He was the—uh—he was the police—

DDM: *Carabinieri*.

MG: *Carabinieri*. And that's where he met my future mom. [Laughs] So, his future wife, I mean. Uh, and, uh, her mother had a fruit stand, and he was patrolling, I guess, the street and saw her there. And [Laughs] they got married. But you know what? They got married, and he came to Canada with a to—a honeymoon. [Laughs] Yeah, and it was 19—

EV: So, he decided to stay?

MG: She—he had, he had, he had tickets to come here, but they got married before, uh—they wanted to get married before he, he left. So, she left—he left her behind, and then two years later, she came out.

SC: And what year did he immigrate?

MG: Uh, he came in 1923. And, uh, she came a little—two years la—later. And I was born in 1925. [Laughs]

EV: Well, what brought him here?

MG: Um, I really don't know the reason.

DDM: Can I—

MG: But I know he had a brother here.

EV: Oh, okay.

MG: Yes.

DDM: Uh, I was just thinking, could it be that he wanted to move, move away because of the Fascist regime in It—in Italy.

MG: That's possible.

DDM: He wanted to get out of the country for that reason.

MG: Could be.

EV: And just starting up...

DDM: Yeah.

EV: Okay. And, um, what did he do when he—as soon as he came here?

MG: Well, apparently, he was supposed to work on the farm. But they were building the, the, the Seaway at the time.

EV: The canal.

DDM: Mm-hm.

MG: And eventually he got a job on the Seaway—

DDM: Oh yeah.

MG: —working as a labourer.

EV: What was he doing? What was he doing?

DDM: Just a labourer.

MG: I guess digging.

DDM: Labourer, that's all.

MG: Labourer, I guess.

EV: So, this is the Welland Canal?

DDM: Welland Canal, yeah.

MG: Yes, Welland Canal.

EV: The famous Welland Canal.

MG: Yeah.

DDM: The famous Welland Canal.

SC: Did he move straight to St. Catharines or [unclear; 0:03:36.2] —

MG: Yes.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: Yes. In fact, it was the—Facer (?) Street, along Facer Street, close by to the canal, now.

[Laughs]

EV: The Italian neighbourhood.

MG: Yes.

EV: Yeah. And is that where you grew up?

MG: Uh, yes, but from there, uh, we moved to, um, Paige Street (?). That's where my brothers and sisters were born. I think Dino was the last one born there.

EV: So, how long, how long did you have that house for on Paige?

MG: Oh golly, I'd—well—

EV: Did they—is that were they stayed the whole time?

MG: Most of the time, yes, yeah.

EV: So, tell us about that—

MG: That I remember.

EV: —okay, tell us about that neighbourhood, how was it growing up there?

MG: On Paige Street?

EV: Yeah.

MG: Uh, I don't remember too much. I know it was a long way to go to school, because we went to a Catholic school by the cathedral, and that was way up on, uh, Church Street, and that was a long way. But, uh—

EV: Were there other Italians in the neighbourhood, or—

MG: Not that I know of, no.

EV: So, afterwards, once—when your father was arrested, uh, how did that change the neighbourhood? How did you feel?

DDM: Well, I—

MG: Well, that, that was the neighbourhood before, um—

EV: Oh.

DDM: It'd be at, um, Bertram (?), when he was arrested.

EV: Okay, so that was before Paige?

DDM: We were living on Bertram Street, then.

MG: Yeah.

EV: Okay.

MG: They're were all pretty well grown-up—

DDM: Yeah.

MG: —really, then, by then.

DDM: Like, I might have been six years old, I guess, eh?

MG: Yes.

EV: Okay, so, now, uh—

SC: So, after working at the c—um, on the canal, what did he do after, like, job-wise?

DDM: I think he—didn't he—didn't he go to the winery at—

MG: He worked we—he worked at the winery—

DDM: Worked for, uh—

MG: —and he did work for the city, [Dog barking] also.

SC: Okay. Which winery was this?

DDM: It used to be Garden City Winery, I think.

SC: Okay.

DDM: Pat—what was his name, Paterocci (?)?

MG: Paterocci.

DDM: He owned the farm that he worked on, too, and his owned this Garden City Winery, which was off of, uh, Queenston (?) Street. You know where the brick company used to be down below there? I remember that, going down there.

EV: But that's after he came back from—

DDM: Yeah.

EV: —the internment camp? So, up until that—up until he—up until he was arrested, he always worked on the canal? Or did he have—

MG: No.

DDM: No.

MG: No, he worked with the c—oh, he worked with the city.

DDM: Yeah.

EV: Okay.

MG: He worked with the city.

SC: What was he doing with the city?

MG: Dig—digging ditches—

SC: Okay.

MG: —putting sewers in.

SC: Mm-hm.

MG: Yeah.

SC: Okay.

MG: Yeah.

EV: Manual labour.

DDM: Yeah.

EV: And so that's up until the point where he was arrested?

MG: Yes, up 'til the point he, he was arrested.

EV: Okay. Uh, now—

MG: [Turning to Mario] Right? [Mario shakes his head.]

EV: —shall we get to the, the night that he was arrested? That was, uh—you were all at, uh—

DDM: We were having supper at the table.

MG: All at home. It was Friday evening.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: We were having supper.

EV: Do you remember the date?

MG: Mm, no, I don't remember the date.

EV: Roughly, no? That's okay, that's okay. So, while you were—was it about six o'clock, or—

DDM: Yeah, b—it was an evening.

MG: Yeah.

DDM: It was around suppertime, yeah.

MG: Yeah, suppertime. We were—we were just—

EV: Can you tell us what happened that night?

MG: We were just sitting down to eat, and—

EV: He was there, too?

DDM: Mm-hm. Oh, yeah.

MG: And we had—uh, well, as we were eating, um, they, they had knocked at the door, two, two men came in, they said—

DDM: They told us, “Don’t get up. Everybody stay sitting down.”

MG: “Everybody, everybody stay still. Nobody move.”

DDM: One stayed with, uh—at the table, the other one went upstairs, searched—

MG: Stairs, searched the place.

DDM: —the upstairs. They came down. We had a—used to have a, a long closet upstairs. And my dad had two flags, the Italian flag and the Canadian flag. And they brought them downstairs, then they told my father, “Get up, you have to come with us.” He hadn’t even finished eating yet. And, uh, my mother asked, “Wh—where are you going to take—where are you taking him?” They, they wouldn’t answer. And in fact, there was—uh, people had come to visit.

MG: Yeah.

DDM: And, uh, they were from Hamilton. They had an old jalopy, and, uh, she got stuck in the house, she couldn’t leave. Her husband was outside with his mother in the car, it was still running. Then he was wondering what was taking her so long, he come in, and he got stuck in the house. Then the other—the mother, same thing. She, she got out of the car and came in. And she—they told her, the car was still running out there. So, uh, eventually they, they left, and they took him away. And, uh, I don’t know—

MG: But we didn’t know where they, they had taken him.

DDM: Did they take him to the St. Catharines police station first, and then transfer him to Hamilton? Is that how it worked?

MG: I, I think so, don't know, I'm not sure.

DDM: I think so. And then they, they ended up in Petawawa.

EV: So, no, no explanation?

MG: No.

DDM: None.

MG: Nothing.

EV: And did he, did he even know why?

MG: He didn't know why.

DDM: I don't think he—no, he was shocked just like the rest of us were.

EV: Now, he was a Canadian citizen?

MG: That's right.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: He was.

EV: Now, do you know if, um—because I, I—was, was he teaching Italian, uh, at night or—

MG: Uh, yes. Uh, they, they were able to get a, a [Clock chimes], a, a class, uh, down at one of the schools. And, uh, they were able to teach some of the Italian children, Italian language. And that's the only thing that I can think of that he did wrong.

DDM: He, he belonged to Sons of Italy. It was a club.

EV: Yes.

DDM: They used to play cards. Uh, and I don't know if that was part of the—

EV: [unclear; "yeah, it was"; 0:09:22.7]

DDM: —the reason that they, uh, they f—maybe they figured they were collaborating to, you know—

EV: Yeah.

DDM: So, anyway, that's—to me, that was part of the reason that they—because there's other Italians that weren't interned.

EV: Oh, yeah. Lots.

DDM: Lots of them, yes.

SC: Was he ever a member of the, uh, executive of the Sons of Italy, or just a member?

DDM: Uh, gee, that, I don't know.

EV: Mario, do you—

DDM: Would you know, Mario?

ML: Yeah, he was the first president of that—

DDM: Was he?

ML: —Order of Sons of Italy club.

EV: In St. Catharines?

ML: In St. Catharines.

EV: Where was the, uh, headquarters?

ML: The headquarters, uh, at the time was at Sault Ste. Marie.

EV: Mm-hm.

ML: But the Niagara Falls had a very strong contingent [Clears throat] and Mr. Guarriaro (?) there was the big wheel, he was the overseer for all the peninsula.

SC: Okay.

EV: So, then after, uh, cities like Welland (?) had a Sons of Italy—

ML: Mm-hm.

EV: —St. Catharines.

ML: Yeah.

EV: And so this was the first one?

ML: [Nods]

EV: So, was it—was this just a couple of years before this happened, or do you remember, do you know—

MG: No, I think they, they were around for quite a while, weren't they, Mario?

ML: When—I don't know exactly when the Order of Sons of Italy—

MG: Yeah.

ML: —uh, was formed.

MG: I think they were around for quite a while.

EV: Yeah.

ML: I know that my dad belonged to it as well.

MG: Yeah.

SC: Okay.

ML: Mr. Tortorella (?) belonged to it as well.

MG: Yeah. And you know—

ML: Mm-hm, quite a few.

MG: —because they, they even continued with the Sons of Italy even after the war.

EV: Yeah. Well, still today, of course.

DDM: Mm-hm.

MG: 'Cause you know what it was? It's they—the—you had—they used to have, like, a, a little pension that after you died, you would get so much money—

EV: Right.

MG: —from them.

DDM: Mm-hm.

MG: So—and I don't even know how much that—

ML: Two hundred and fifty dollars.

MG: Was it 250 dollars?

DDM: Yeah. [Laughter]

ML: That's what they brought me when my dad died.

MG: See?

EV: Yeah.

MG: Yeah. And that was just like a club.

EV: Yes.

MG: That's all that we know.

EV: So, uh, he was probably—he founded the, the St. Catharines chapter, let's say.

ML: Well, he was instrumental in the, uh—

DDM: Yeah.

ML: —organizing of, of that.

EV: So—

ML: There was him, there was Mr. Carlucci (?), Derbano (?), uh—

MG: Yeah.

ML: Four or five of them—

DDM: DiMercurio (?).

MG: Yeah.

ML: —I can remember.

MG: DiMercurio.

ML: DiMercurio, of course.

DDM: Yes.

EV: Okay.

SC: And, and, sorry, where was the club, again, in?

ML: It doesn't exist in St. Catharines.

SC: The club [unclear; 0:11:38.4]

EV: No, no, no.

SC: Oh, okay.

EV: But—

SC: But, but at the time?

ML: St. Catharines was disbanded. Well, they had different places where they went for meetings.

MG: I think one of them—

ML: Uh, the, the most recent one was on Niagara Street.

MG: Yeah.

EV: Where the church—

MG: Just like a little hall or something.

EV: —the hall, would have been built? The one where the—not, not Corsing Alfred's (?)?

ML: No, no, no, no.

DDM: No.

ML: No.

EV: That was another one.

ML: No, this was on Niagara Street, just about across from St. John's school. There was a—

EV: Oh.

ML: —great big old building there. The first Ontario—

EV: Right.

ML: —is there now.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: Yeah.

EV: [unclear; 0:12:10.0]

ML: The building was torn down.

EV: So, you suspect that between, uh—you found this out afterwards, probably, that the Sons of Italy—his involvement in the Sons of Italy, and then, of course, his, uh—perhaps because he was teaching Italian at night.

DDM: Yeah.

EV: Uh—

DDM: Yeah.

EV: Maybe that led to, uh—

[Screen blacks out, audio continues; 0:12:32.1]

[Picture resumes; 0:12:35.0]

DDM: [Squeaking sound in background] This had a lot to do with it.

EV: Yeah. So, that night, uh—again, getting back to what happened, uh, so he was taken away—

DDM: Mm-hm.

EV: How long, uh—he was taken to Hamilton and probably to, to the CNE in Toronto.

DDM: Mm-hm.

MG: Yes.

EV: How long before you had any word on what happened or—

DDM: Mm.

EV: —did anybody tell you anything?

MG: No.

EV: How many days or weeks went—

MG: Oh, I know my mother was able to go—we were able to go and visit, and, uh—

SC: Where did you visit him? Was he still in—

MG: The one—uh, in, in Hamilton, she went once, I think.

SC: Okay.

MG: And—

DDM: She took me to, uh—I don't know if it was Petawawa. We went by train.

MG: No.

DDM: Or in Hamilton.

MG: Hamilton.

DDM: 'Cause I made the comment—

MG: In Toronto.

DDM: —and I said to my mother, I says, “Why is Daddy in, in that cage?” you know?

EV: Mm-hm.

DDM: I remember saying that.

EV: That could have been the CNE, too, who knows?

DDM: It could be. I don't know.

EV: Yeah.

SC: So, you visited him in Hamilton and then in Toronto, you mentioned?

MG: Yes.

SC: Okay.

MG: Yeah.

EV: So, you only saw him one, Dino?

DDM: Yeah.

EV: Mary, how many—

MG: We went a couple—a few times to Toronto. I think we went once on the boat. We took the boat to get to Toronto, 'cause nobody drove in that—[Laughs] So.

EV: Did you—you don't recall going to Petawawa?

MG: No.

EV: No?

MG: No.

DDM: I don't remember that.

MG: We never did.

EV: Okay. So, what—as I—how long before you found out—or did they ever tell you why he was arrested?

MG: Nobody ever mentioned anything to us—

DDM: No.

MG: —at all.

DDM: Never, no.

MG: We didn't—we still don't know why.

DDM: Well, we do know now.

MG: Well—

DDM: Because of Mussolini and—

MG: Yeah, but why—

DDM: —the Italian fascists.

MG: —why, why, why would they—

EV: But you were given a—

DDM: No.

MG: —why would they pick up on Daddy?

EV: Yeah.

DDM: Well, it's—he's not the only one they picked up on.

MG: No.

DDM: But—it's just that—they seemed to have known which ones they wanted, I guess.

EV: But you never rec—

MG: But I—

EV: —you—there was never an explanation, never—

DDM: No.

EV: [unclear; 0:14:32.5]

DDM: We never got—I don't remember getting any.

EV: No. How long was he there?

DDM: Interned? Two years.

EV: Two years.

SC: And how long—backtracking, how long was he in Hamilton and how long was he in Toronto, do you remember?

MG: I don't remember.

DDM: I don't remember that, either.

MG: Do you remember, Mario?

ML: I wasn't here.

MG: No, you were—you weren't here.

DDM: No, all I remember—

EV: So, when he was at the camp, um, did—what did he do there? Did he tell you—did you find out after, when, when, when did he tell you about the activities, the life at the camp, or—

MG: Well, really, we, we didn't know too much, because my dad used to write to my mother in Italian. Like, the letters came to my mom in Italian. Course, they were screened, I guess.

DDM: Probably, sure.

MG: Yeah. And—

DDM: She had a pile of letters [Indicating height of pile of letters]—

MG: —she would tell us what, what he was doing. Okay, so, really we—as far as we knew, it's just what my mother told us—

SC: Sure.

MG: —what my dad was doing. And, oh, she said he was out, uh, cutting down trees and things out there and, and I guess they kept busy with exercise, whatever. And little things that he made, that—Dino has a few things.

DDM: I still have a couple of—

EV: Yeah, [unclear; 0:15:41.7]

DDM: —items, yeah.

MG: And I know my younger sister now said to me, “Do you remember the boat that Daddy made when he was in Petawawa?” I said, “No, I don’t remember.” She says, “It was a beautiful boat.” She said, “I don’t know what happened to it. He brought it back with him from Petawawa.”

EV: ‘Cause you have—Dino, you have the, uh—

DDM: I still have those, yes.

EV: A couple things, but not the boat?

DDM: No.

MG: No, not the boat.

DDM: I don’t even remember, uh, the boat to tell you the truth.

MG: My younger—

DDM: I, uh—

MG: My younger sister remembers the boat.

EV: So, did he ever tell you about how life was at the camp, what they did—being Italian, I imagine they ate okay.

DDM: I imagine, I guess, I don’t know.

MG: I think he got used to porridge at—

EV: Oh, porridge.

MG: —there. [Laughter]

DDM: Yeah, I don't know what—

MG: Which he never had at home. [Laughter]

SC: Did he ever mention, uh, coming across other people from the area who were also sent there? Anybody he knew?

DDM: He knew some—there was a, a couple from [unclear; 0:16:37.9] that were interned, too.

MG: Yeah.

DDM: I forget—uh, I don't know if we mentioned Penachetti (?) or not, or—who was the other fella from [unclear; 0:16:46.0], I'm trying to think of the name.

MG: The dog.

DDM: Uh—

ML: And he mentioned Scott Safavo (?).

DDM: Is that the doctor from Welland?

ML: That's the doctor from—

EV: The doctor.

DDM: Yeah.

ML: —Port Colborne, yeah.

DDM: Yeah.

ML: From Welland.

SC: There was a DiMallo (?).

DDM: You know, it's a funny thing, because there was a—when I was watching that movie, the—what was it, the Iron Fence? The DVD they made, uh...this—the father, was interned, and his son was in the Canadian army.

EV: Mm-hm. Yup.

DDM: Now to me, that was really something, you know.

EV: Yes.

SC: Mm-hm.

DDM: I said, why would they interned somebody that's—son's in the army, and, uh—

EV: It's ridiculous. I know. There was a case of that, of somebody in Niagara Falls, too.

DDM: Was it?

SC: Yeah.

EV: Similar. Uh, the son went into the army, it's, uh—

[Fades out at 0:17:33.3]

[Fades in at 0:17:35.0]

EV: So, during the two years, um, the only communication—your mom went—did she—did anybody go? Did anybody go to Petawawa?

MG: Nobody went to Petawawa.

DDM: No, it's too far to go.

MG: Too far to go.

EV: So, you knew nothing of, uh—

MG: No way.

EV: Other than the letters?

DDM: The letters.

MG: The letters were the only thing.

EV: Okay.

[Fades out at 0:17:51.9]

[Fades in at 0:17:53.8]

EV: You don't know anything else that went on in the camp, that he was, uh, interrogated, questioned daily?

MG: Yes, he was.

EV: Okay.

MG: Yes, he was. And, uh, he told my mother that when they, they took him in and questioned him, they asked him if he was willing to fight for Canada. And he said, "Yes, I'm willing to fight for Canada, but," he says, "I—I also, I have a brother that's in Italy." That's all he said.

SC: Hmm.

MG: In other words, he—

EV: It was kind of a dilemma at the time.

SC: Yeah.

DDM: Mm-hm.

MG: [Cuckoo clock chimes] In other words, I guess he—[Clock music continues playing, laughter] [Turns to Mario] We should have gone to your place.

EV: Okay. So, um, getting back to while your dad was there, what happened to your family? Did you have—you didn't have a—any income, uh—

MG: No income, no income.

EV: Did—what happened to each of your—'cause you have—there were five of you, right? Five brothers and sisters?

DDM: Mm-hm.

MG: Yup. They were all in school except me. I was out working. And Leda (?) was in high school, and, and she quit school, 'cause she had to go to work, too. 'Cause there was—

ML: And Hugo (?) was, uh, setting up pins at the bowling alley.

MG: Pins—bowling alley, he was working, too, yup, my brother.

DDM: But I remember, where she worked at the end of—I used to go behind there, they used to have the boxes, wood boxes. I used to roll them back home for firewood. [Cuckoo clock]

MG: For firewood.

DDM: And, you know, I'd go and look for pieces of coal, because we had—the tracks used to run behind our, our, uh, property. They used to go all the way down to Port Weller (?). And, uh, we used to go out looking for firewood. And, uh, in the, in the middle of the living room, we had a big round—remember the furnace?

MG: Oh, that was down on Byne (?) Street?

DDM: No, that was Bertram. I remember that, yeah.

ML: Bertram.

DDM: [Clock chimes] Right on the [unclear; 0:20:02.3].

MG: Oh, yeah.

DDM: To keep warm, you know, 'cause—

MG: Right, right.

DDM: —it, it was—those homes were not insulated.

EV: No.

DDM: And, uh, it, it was cold, some nights were cold. [Video camera is adjusted, sound is muffled briefly] Even when my dad came back from, uh—when he was back in the St.

Catharines, he, he used to wear a, a—like, a toque to bed, because he had a, a—upstairs in the
[0:20:23.2].

EV: Okay?

SJ: No, no, yeah, go ahead, keep going.

DDM: It was, it was rough—I—it was a rough two years.

MG: And, and then when he did come back, he was unable to get a wo—a job, nowhere.

EV: So, when you were—so, who—how, how did your family survive? [Clock chimes] Basically,
your—

DDM: Did we have—were we on welfare? Or de—was there a—like, was it welfare or relief,
they used to call it, or something?

MG: I—

DDM: Didn't we get anything from the government, or—

MG: I don't think so, Dino, not that I know of. I don't know.

DDM: I think—

EV: So basically, Mary, you were working?

MG: I was working.

EV: You're—Leda—

MG: Leda went to work.

EV: Yeah, went to work.

SC: And where were you working?

MG: And my brother—uh, uh, my older brother—

EV: Hugo (?)?

MG: Hugo. He was working also, uh, after school, I think it was, after school. Paid—at, at a bowling alley, yeah.

EV: And where were you, where were you working?

MG: I was working at a little factory, uh, at the end of the—uh, Betram Street there, this little factory. And then from there I went to Lightning Fastener (?) with Leda. She—that's where she worked, also.

EV: Okay. So, the two of you worked there. What was your mom—how about your mom?

MG: Mm, she was home with the children.

EV: Yeah. So, it was difficult for her. How—can you tell us how, how she managed—

MG: But I—

EV: How, how did you make ends meet?

MG: But I think we did go—we did go, uh—after I worked at the canning factories for a while, I don't remember if it was after or before, I, I don't remember.

ML: That was after.

DDM: Can I say something here?

MG: It was after?

DDM: Do you remember Mom used to do so—do laundry for some of the, uh—

ML: Right.

DDM: —Italian families?

MG: [Shaking head]

DDM: I thought she did that.

MG: No.

ML: Your mother took in boarders, remember?

MG: [Clock chimes] Yeah, she had boarders.

ML: [unclear; 0:22:05.8]

DDM: Yeah, she had a couple of boarders after.

EV: Oh, so she had boarders?

MG: But that was way before my—it was way before.

DDM: Was it?

MG: Yeah.

DDM: Oh.

MG: Yeah.

EV: Okay. Now, when your dad came home, can you tell us first of all, um, the reaction, um, how did people treat him when he came home? Uh, did they still—did they think he was
[unclear; 0:22:31.5]

MG: Well, you know, not too many people knew of what had happened to our family. Our neighbours didn't know, we didn't tell anybody that our dad was in a concentration camp. So,

nobody knew. So, when he came home, I don't think—nobody questioned us, really. I don't remember anybody questioning me, "Where was your father?"

SC: Right.

MG: But I know my dad, uh, when he came back, he tried to get a job, and nobody would hire him, because as soon as they found out, uh—"Where have you been for two years?" And he'd tell him, and they said, "Sorry."

EV: Mm-hm. So, he found it very rough?

MG: So, he found it very rough to even get work, a job.

EV: And did he—well, he experienced some dis—discrimination, but what about the rest of you?

MG: Well, like I say, we never told anyone. We never told anyone.

DDM: We had good neighbours, uh, mind you. Uh, Mrs. Outram (?), I remember, she, she was English. And then the other side of her, there were two, uh, sisters.

MG: Spinsters, yeah.

DDM: The Fieldings, and they were, they were good neighbours, they...

SC: So, even the fact that you had, uh, an Italian last name, that didn't—

DDM: No.

MG: No.

SC: —didn't—no?

DDM: It didn't.

SC: No discrimination because of that?

EV: So then your dad—what was the first job he found after that?

DDM: Did he go back to the—with the city after?

MG: No.

DDM: Or was that before?

MG: No.

EV: Is that the winery?

DDM: Didn't—

MG: He went to the winery.

DDM: The winery, then—

MG: Back to the winery.

DDM: —the Garden City Winery, yeah.

EV: So, it was an Italian, an Italian gave him that job?

DDM: That, that's right. The—

MG: Yeah.

DDM: He had the farm on, uh, Lakeshore Road.

MG: Yeah.

DDM: Plus he had the wine—

EV: Pattara—

DDM: Pattaraci (?), yeah.

EV: [unclear; 0:24:13.7]

DDM: Yeah.

EV: And so, he—what was he doing at the—working on the farm, or work—

MG: Working on the farm.

DDM: Yeah, work—farm.

MG: Yeah.

EV: What was the winery called? Do you remember?

DDM: I think it was Garden City Winery—uh, Garden City Wine, I think.

EV: Garden City Wine.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: Was it, [unclear; 0:24:30.4]

ML: Miss what it was.

MG: Yeah.

[Fades out at 0:24:32.3]

[Fades in at 0:24:33.8]

EV: So, do we remember when he was, he was released? In '42 or '43?

ML: They said '40—uh, '41.

DDM: I don't remember that, either.

EV: Well, '39, I guess he went in, or, or something, no?

ML: No, '40.

EV: Oh, he went in in 1940?

ML: Oh yeah, because we didn't declare war until 1940.

EV: Right.

MG: So—and he was in for two years, so—

ML: Yeah, so it was '42.

MG: '42.

EV: Or at the end of, uh—the beginning of '43, maybe.

MG: Yeah.

ML: Yeah.

EV: Okay. So, do we—er—

SC: Um—

EV: —want to start again? Uh...[unclear; 0:25:11.1]

SC: Yeah. Um—

EV: Is it going, Spencer?

SJ: Yup.

EV: Okay, sorry, could we just—so, when, when did he come home? Around the date, the—

DDM: Mm.

EV: —from—he was interned when? And then when did he come out?

MG: I don't remember, know any—

EV: 1940?

MG: I don't remember when he came—

DDM: I can't remember that, either. I don't know.

EV: However, two years there?

MG: Yeah.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: After two years.

EV: So, probably around '43—

MG: But—

EV: —the beginning of '43, the end of '42, he came out?

MG: I don't even know if we were advised that, that he was coming home. Wh—or whether he just came home. I don't remember.

DDM: I don't, either.

EV: Yeah.

SC: He was just home?

EV: So, finally he found this job with the Pettarachia (?)—

MG: Yes.

DDM: Yeah.

EV: —at the winery. How long did he, did he stay there? Because he couldn't find anything else, right?

DDM: No.

MG: No, my dad, after that, n—didn't work anywhere, except the farm.

EV: Oh, okay.

DDM: And it's a funny thing. When we were living on Bertram, we saw them go by the house, they were taking him to the hospital because he had broke, broke a leg. And that's—that was weird, wasn't it? Remember that—

MG: No.

DDM: —when he broke his leg?

MG: Yeah, [unclear; 0:26:16.8]

DDM: That was on the farm, yeah.

MG: Yeah.

EV: So, after that, he didn't have any other jobs?

MG: No.

DDM: No, he—

MG: No.

EV: And that's because he wasn't able to find employment, because of the—

MG: Yup.

EV: —the fact that he was interned?

DDM: Yeah. But then he, eventually, after—I think he did end up with the city, again.

MG: No, he didn't.

DDM: Huh?

MG: No.

ML: Yeah, the city, he—

MG: He did?

DDM: Yeah, [unclear; 0:26:38.0]

ML: He got working back at the city after the, the winery closed down.

DDM: That's right, yes.

MG: He did?

ML: Oh yeah, 'cause remember, we used to go pick him up at four o'clock—

DDM: Yeah.

ML: —every afternoon, somebody had to go pick him up.

MG: Oh, I don't remember that.

ML: Yeah, the city yard [unclear; 0:26:51.3] Avenue.

DDM: I remember that. Yes.

ML: Yeah, remember?

MG: Oh.

DDM: I remember that.

MG: Well, there you go. I don't remember that.

DDM: Yeah.

SC: And so what was he doing at the city afterwards?

DDM: [unclear; 0:26:58.5]

ML: He was work—he worked in the, uh—

DDM: [unclear; 0:27:00.8]

ML: —sewer and [unclear; 0:27:02.0] He laid sewers, cleaned out, you know? Worked mostly in the, uh—what did they call? Maintenance department.

DDM: Yeah.

SC: Sure, sure, okay.

DDM: He went from a police officer to working behind a desk to, uh, digging ditches.

EV: Yeah. Did he talk about that experience during the war? How did—did you see him—and you were young, Dino, but Mary, did, did you see him change as an individual because of all this?

MG: I don't think so. I don't—

DDM: Not really. I think he more—

MG: He was still my—

DDM: —more family-oriented—

MG: Yeah.

EV: Yeah.

DDM: —when he come back, you know?

EV: Yeah.

DDM: Well, being away two years, you know? So, uh, I—yeah, he—I remember him being more—

MG: No, I think he was the same, ‘cause he used to—

DDM: Well—

MG: —love, like, his garden in the back, and—

DDM: Oh, see, that garden, I don’t know how—he used to dig that by hand. I, I, I used to marvel at it.

MG: Yeah. Plant all his—

DDM: I used to say, “Pad (?), you want me to help you?” He said, “No, no, I’m fine.” And it’s a big garden, too. I, I—

MG: Yeah.

DDM: It was a bitch, it was—

MG: And he used to give it away.

DDM: —fifty feet long. Yeah.

MG: I mean, uh, most of the stuff that was too much, you know.

DDM: Yeah, well, the neighbours—that, that’s why we got along with the neighbours, I guess.

EV: Yeah.

MG: Yeah.

EV: Um, but what about, um, when he—when—during this time, when he was back, I mean, he didn’t talk about it? He didn’t talk about what happened, but, um, you say he wasn’t—you didn’t notice anything?

MG: I don’t think he talked about it to the children. Maybe he did to, to my mother—

DDM: Yeah, I don’t think he mentioned anything to me about it.

MG: —but he didn’t say too much to the children. I don’t think Leda ever—

DDM: I don’t remember it, anyway.

MG: —mentioned anything about Daddy talking to her. No.

EV: No.

MG: But I think maybe, uh, my mom knew more about it than—

DDM: Well, the letters said a lot, too.

MG: Yes.

DDM: But we—in—it was in Italian, so we don't know exactly what was in it, but—because she used to keep a stack of them. [Indicating size of stack with hands]

EV: You don't know where they ended up?

MG: That's why I gave them to Mario. [Laughter]

EV: Oh, you have them?

DDM: Not anymore.

MG: Well, I gave them to my sister, Leda, when—uh, and, uh, I said to her, I says, "Well, maybe—" there was only a few. There wasn't that many. And I said, "Maybe—"

ML: I never saw them.

MG: You never saw them?

ML: Mm-mm.

EV: But he was in—I mean—so, he basically just didn't talk about it? And, and, and—

MG: No, he wouldn't talk about it.

DDM: Not to—not to his kids, I don't think.

MG: No.

EV: So, how did you feel? How did the, the kids feel when he came back?

DDM: Oh, I, I—

MG: We were glad to have him back.

DDM: Just—certainly, yeah.

EV: Yeah.

MG: We were sorry that he was gone for so long.

DDM: Yeah.

EV: Do you still—

MG: And for no reason, we thought it was for no reason.

EV: Does it still trouble you?

MG: Yes.

DDM: It troubles me, you know.

MG: Yes.

DDM: This is between u—us, though. I don't know, it will be edited anyway, but—

EV: Yeah.

DDM: —I still think the English had a lot to do with interning a lot of the Canadian-Italians over here. 'Cause Mackenzie King, I don't think he was a good prime minister anyway, when he was here in power. He was, uh—he was our prime minister, when he was—at that time.

ML: But he had no animosity towards the country at all.

DDM: No.

ML: He felt that it was a, a question of circumstances, it was war, and it was something you either had to accept or you could, you know, drive yourself crazy. But it—there was nothing you could do about it.

EV: Yeah.

SC: Interesting.

EV: So, there was understanding on, on your dad's part?

MG: Yeah.

EV: But still, you, you, you've got some—

DDM: Oh, yeah, I still—

EV: —resentment.

MG: Well, yeah.

DDM: —have resentment there. It took two years out of our, our lives, you know, with him being away.

EV: Well, creating hardship, too.

DDM: Yeah.

EV: I guess nobody gave you vegetables or—

DDM: No, no.

MG: No.

EV: —while he was gone, yeah.

MG: No.

DDM: And I don't even remember getting an, an apology, to tell you the truth, let alone compensation.

EV: What would make things—it's hard to make things right, but what would help—what would help you? What would kind of bring a bit of closure to this? Uh, apologies, compensation?

DDM: All of that.

EV: All of that, yeah.

MG: Oh.

EV: Well, what do you mean—what do you, what do you think? I mean, just tell us how you feel—

DDM: From the government, yeah, federal government. The Liberals were in power then.

ML: No, but I think Brian Mulroney did, uh, issue an apology—

DDM: No, no, Brian Mulroney. [Laughs]

ML: —uh, when he was in power.

EV: But is an apology enough to erase two years?

ML: Well.

MG: Mm.

DDM: [Laughs] Yeah, I doubt it.

ML: He also apologized to the, uh, Japanese people.

EV: Yeah.

ML: But he gave them compensation, too. But the Italians, uh, from what I can understand, they had no, uh—nothing was confiscated from any of the Italian people, so that, uh, the Japanese were compensated because they had been, uh, you know—had been taken—

MG: Everything taken.

ML: —stuff sent—taken away from them. No, the only one that I can recall that, uh, had anything that was, uh, taken from him was Francescini (?).

EV: Yes.

ML: The big builder. But, uh, when he came out, he still was a great Canadian, he still wanted to be, you know.

DDM: What about the contractor from Toronto?

ML: That's Francescini.

DDM: Oh, is that Francescini?

EV: Yeah.

DDM: Yeah. It's Dufferin (?) now, isn't it?

ML: Mm-hm.

EV: It was Dufferin, yeah.

DDM: Yeah.

EV: So, do you know if your dad was in contact after with other people that were interned, or did—it was just—

DDM: Oh, after the wa—after they came back, sure he was. In fact, the—DiMercurio used to live about two doors down from us.

EV: Okay.

DDM: And he was interned with my father. And, uh, that was—we still had contact with the Carluccis (?).

MG: And there was Carlos (?), Carlos, yeah.

DDM: Carlos Carlucci and, uh—who else was from—

MG: They were all, they were all still friends.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: They were all still friends.

EV: But did they become better friends because of that, or—

DDM: Yeah, actually, they—my—

MG: Yeah.

DDM: —I remember my parents used to visit the, uh, Carluccis there, and, uh, the, the DiMercurios, like I say, were just two doors down.

MG: Well—

EV: ‘Cause I guess they had something in common.

DDM: Oh yeah, sure.

EV: Shared, and a—however bitter that was, they still shared an experience.

DDM: Yeah, yeah.

EV: Um—

ML: And he was closer to the Carluccis, because they worked together. They both worked for the city there for a while.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: And not only that, uh, uh, Mr. Carlucci, he—when, uh—before his family came out to Canada, he was a boarder with—at my mother’s house.

EV: Ahh, okay, okay.

SC: Okay.

MG: Yeah.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: Yeah.

EV: I see.

MG: So, that's how they knew, really.

EV: And—

SC: And, and you mentioned, then—DiMer—Mercurio, what was he doing as a job, Dino? Do you have a bit of a background?

MG: [unclear; 0:33:40.8]

DDM: He worked at Hayes, Hayes Steel (?).

MG: No, it was Mackinnon's (?), wasn't it?

DDM: No, uh—

MG: Oh.

ML: Mm?

EV: Uh, I've got Hasting (?) [unclear; 0:33:49.2]

DDM: Hayes Steel.

MG: It was Mackinnon's that, uh—

ML: No, no, he worked at Hayes Dana (?).

MG: Hayes Dana? Oh.

ML: He worked on the forge.

MG: Oh, okay. Okay.

DDM: Forge [unclear; 0:33:53.7]

EV: That's what I have, too. And Carlucci was in the Sons of Italy, too, right?

DDM: Mm-hm, yeah.

EV: He was the—

ML: So was DiMercurio.

MG: Yeah.

DDM: DiMercurio, yeah.

EV: [unclear; 0:34:01.0]

MG: They all were, yeah.

DDM: Yeah.

EV: Part of the other op—the executive.

DDM: Yeah.

SC: And—sorry.

DDM: How come Mister—the tailor, uh, Andy, uh, um—

EV: Montana (?)?

DDM: Pontello (?)?

ML: Dervano (?), oh the tailor—Derpento (?).

DDM: He never got interned, did he?

ML: No.

MG: What tailor?

SC: Hosanno (?)?

ML: Dervano didn't.

DDM: [unclear; 0:34:17.7]

MG: Oh.

EV: Dervano?

MG: No.

ML: No.

EV: No, we don't have that, oh.

DDM: No.

SC: There was a Pietro Fandano (?).

DDM: You know, I remember—my mother used to mention this fella had a, a—

MG: A wooden hand.

DDM: Yeah, a wooden hand.

ML: Yeah, he had a claw, a claw hand, yeah.

DDM: They—and they figure he was—collaborated with the [Laughs]—about sending these—

ML: Well, they say that—they figured he was a snitch.

DDM: Huh? Yeah.

ML: He's the one that turned all these people in.

EV: Really?

DDM: Yeah.

ML: He did, yeah.

EV: Who would this—

ML: I have no idea what his last name was.

DDM: We have no idea of his name or—

EV: In St. Catharines or Niagara Falls?

DDM: Ni—

ML: St. Catharines.

DDM: St. Catharines.

SC: Hmm.

ML: I know he used to go to the house, and Leda used to be afraid of him.

MG: Yeah.

DDM: Yeah.

ML: Right?

MG: And my family was always so nice to him. He was always [Clock chimes] there for, for meals.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: That's why Leda didn't like him, 'cause he was always there for meals.

ML: He, he was friends with Mike Homer Benvenuto (?).

MG: Yeah.

ML: Oh geez.

SC: Now, post-war, did your father—was he still part of the Sons of Italy, or did he stay away from the group, or—

ML: Oh, no. When they came back, they—

MG: They still, they still sent—and my—in fact, my mother—Mario, you used to take, um, my mother's, uh, uh, things for, for, for the Sons of Italy, didn't you? The—

ML: Hmm?

MG: Wasn't it the money that they used to have to pay every, every month, every year?

DDM: Yeah, I remember taking money to take him up to, uh Dur—uh, things, pay her dues or something.

ML: You mean there—yeah.

MG: Yeah, the dues, yeah.

ML: Yeah, well, Mary, Mary Tortorella (?) ended up doing it for her father, 'cause he—'cause her father was the treasurer.

MG: Yeah.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: See, and my mother was still paying the dues for the Sons of Italy.

DDM: Mm-hm, yeah, right up until the end, yeah.

EV: Wow.

SC: And Carlucci and DiMercurio, they were also still involved? Did they all—

DDM: Uh, that, I don't know.

MG: I think they were, too.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: I think they all still sent dues in.

SC: Right.

MG: Because they thought it was like an insurance, like—

ML: Mm-hm.

MG: —like, Mario said, his dad got about 250 dollars? And they thought, oh gee, that's—you know, in those days, 250 dollars, I guess was a lot of money. I don't know. [Laughs]

DDM: Yeah.

ML: Oh yeah. When they first joined—

MG: Yeah.

ML: —it, it was one of the conditions. And 250 dollars was a lot of money in those days.

MG: Yeah.

SC: Mm-hm.

MG: So—and they still thought, well, we'll still keep our dues, and when the time comes, we'll get the 250 dollars. [Laughing]

DDM: Mm-hm.

SC: Now, was there any sort of reaction from the Italian community during the war? Like, was, was there any sort of division, did they get closer together, was it just never spoken about?

MG: I don't remember any—[Shrugs]

SC: Okay.

DDM: No, I don't know. Maybe they were afraid to say anything, I don't know.

ML: No.

MG: 'Cause really, how, how many, uh, families that we knew that—

DDM: Yeah.

MG: —was like...it was just—

ML: I had cousins that were still here, and they said that they didn't experience any, uh, discrimination—

MG: No.

ML: —or any, you know. And they were all older than I was. Like, my, uh—one cousin had—he was born ten years before me, so when I left here, I was eleven years old. So, he was 21 by then, and he had gone through high school and everything. And both his sisters, Tina and Libby, they all went to school—

[Screen blacks out, audio continues; 0:37:22.9]

[Picture resumes; 0:37:26.0]

ML: —but they said that there had been no, uh—they had felt nothing during the war.

SC: Right.

EV: I think it depends on, uh—if you were—what kind of area you were in. 'Cause we spoke to somebody else who had, you know, a neighbour—

MG: Yeah, 'cause we—

EV: —started calling him names and all this kind of stuff.

MG: —didn't really, you know.

EV: But were you in a pri—primarily an Italian com—

MG: No.

EV: No.

MG: No.

ML: No.

DDM: Not really, no.

EV: Not really. Mixed?

MG: In fact, my mother learned to speak English because we had English neighbours—

DDM: Yeah.

MG: —and no Italians there. [Laughs]

EV: That's good, that's good.

DDM: Most of the Italians were on Facer (?) Street.

EV: Yes.

DDM: They all down—

MG: Yeah.

DDM: —down that area.

MG: They still are.

DDM: Yeah.

SC: That answers my question.

DDM: Do you have any final thoughts? Anything you want to say that you, uh, haven't said already?

DDM: What can we say that's—already been done.

MG: I'm sorry that those years were taken away from us.

EV: Yeah.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: Really.

EV: You were without your dad.

MG: Yeah.

EV: Yeah.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: It wasn't easy, but we made the best of it.

EV: It was a setback financially and emotionally.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: That's right, yeah.

SC: I guess I have one more question. What did—what was your mother's reaction? Did she ever—even when your father was away, did she ever talk about it, did she ever—

MG: Nope, she was—

SC: Just carried on.

MG: Like a re—

DDM: She was too busy looking after us—

MG: Yeah.

DDM: —taking care of us, I guess, that's more—

EV: Five kids.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: Yeah.

ML: What Leda used to say is—we'd go home from school, and then she'd wash our clothes so that we could wear them the next day.

MG: Next day, that's right.

EV: Wow.

DDM: It was rough.

MG: It was just—

DDM: No doubt about it.

MG: Yup.

ML: And all the other kids in school, they had wool skirts and all this sort of stuff, and they were in cotton dresses. That's what Leda used to say. 'Cause sort of—she was fashion, you know—

MG: Yeah. [Laughs]

ML: Le—Leda was always the one that, you know—

MG: Yeah.

ML: —wanted better clothes.

EV: Yeah.

MG: That's why she worked at Eaton's.

ML: That's why she bro—I, I went broke with her. [Laughter]

EV: Mario, any final thoughts, uh—any final thoughts of, uh, your—

ML: No, I don't have any final thoughts.

EV: A bit about the story [unclear; 0:39:39.6]

ML: No. Well, we, we all—like, we all joined the Order of Sons of Italy after. And the organization as far as I was concerned did, did not reflect in any way that they had been associated with any fascist movement at all.

MG: Yup.

ML: Uh, I even—

DDM: No.

ML: —looked in some of the archives, and there was no, no mention at all of any association with any of the other groups that were, uh—were—I don't know if they were accused of having been, uh, associated with any fascist groups, but—

EV: When did you join? Were, were you all—were—did you all join?

MG: No.

DDM: No.

MG: We didn't.

ML: Oh, yeah, we—yeah.

EV: Yeah?

DDM: Yeah.

ML: In fact, I was president one year. [Laughs]

EV: And when did that—'cause that, that came to an end in, uh—there is no na—uh, St. Catharines—

ML: No, there is no St. Catharines that—

MG: No, not now.

DDM: [unclear; 0:40:28.2] Just Club Roma (?) now.

ML: No, our chapter was called, uh, Principe Umberto.

EV: Okay.

ML: And, uh, it was disbanded, the charter was withdrawn. But Niagara Falls still has a charter.

EV: Yes, yes. Which became Club Italia (?).

ML: Yeah, Club Italia with—

DDM: When did Club Roma start?

ML: —within Club Italia.

DDM: When did Club Roma start?

EV: Club Roma [unclear; 0:40:44.4]

ML: When did it start, Club Roma?

DDM: Yeah.

EV: Fifty years ago.

DDM: Fifty years, eh?

ML: Oh, Club Roma started in, uh—

EV: Fifty years this—

ML: —1957 or '58.

EV: Well, that's 50 years ago, 'cause they had the, uh, anniversary—

MG: Mm-mm.

ML: Yeah, right.

EV: —this summer, I think, right?

DDM: Well—

EV: When was it, June?

MG: [Mario takes out a pen from his vest] [To Mario] Did you get a pen or something?

ML: I gotta find out what year.

EV: You've got a pen?

DDM: Well, you—[Laughs]

ML: [Reading] "50th anniversary, 1961-2011."

EV: Yeah. I didn't get a pen. [Laughter]

ML: Well, well, I belong to the club.

DDM: You belong to the club, too?

EV: I was there. I didn't get a pen. [Laughter]

ML: I belong to the club. [Laughter]

MG: My husband was one of them that, uh, that started that club.

EV: The founder?

MG: Yeah.

EV: One of the founders?

MG: One of them.

EV: [Clearing throat] So, Mario, sorry, [unclear; 0:41:27.6], so when the Sons—do you remember when the Sons of Italy—obviously, when you came back, the Sons of Italy was, was going in the—

ML: Mm-hm.

EV: —in the forties and fifties, and then—

ML: Yeah, well, that caused a lot of dissension here in St. Catharines, because my father-in-law, he was Order of Sons of Italy, so was the Carluccis, and so was the, the Di Mercurios and that. And they didn't want to have anything to do with this new Club Roma.

EV: Okay.

ML: And a whole bunch of new, newcomers came, you know, [with Italian accent] they just come, you know. [Laughter] And they wanted to have their own club, and, they, they fought among themselves, you know, "Oh, why do you want to start a new club, we got one going," and all this other stuff.

EV: So, basically, the, the Sons of Italy in St. Catharines came to an end because of Club Roma?

ML: Because of Club Roma.

EV: So, six—in the late fifties and—

DDM: Yeah.

ML: Yeah.

EV: —'61?

ML: Early sixties, yeah.

EV: Yeah, I see, I see.

ML: Yeah. Well, see, my dad died in '60—no, my dad died in '86, and he got his pen—but her father died in 1968, and by that time, they would—pretty well had done.

MG: Yeah.

ML: They were down. They just had a treasurer left, and, uh, he used to just collect the dues—

MG: The dues, yeah.

ML: —for people who wanted to keep their insurance.

EV: Mm-hm.

ML: And they would send it to Sault Ste. Marie or Montreal.

EV: Right, right, right, right. Okay.

SC: This was, um—was this topic ever discussed in the post-war at the Sons of Italy clubs? Or was it just—at the, the Sons of Italy club, did they ever discuss any of this ever? Was it ever brought up?

ML: No.

SC: No? Yeah.

MG: They used to go to the parades. Every time there was a parade, the Sons of Italy were there.

ML: Mm-hm.

MG: With their flags and whoever, yeah. So, that, that's all I know of them, eh?

DDM: Mm-hm.

MG: That's where the cli—that's where the flags came from, that Daddy had.

DDM: Yeah.

MG: From the parades.

[Fades out at 0:43:24.2]

[End of interview]